

STARS AND STRIPES®

Firth's second
role cut from
'Bridget Jones'

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Actor Colin Firth



Bowl-bound Navy
runs past Army
in 105th meeting

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Navy's Kyle Eckel (32) outpaces Army cadets

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004

17 Iraqis die in insurgent ambush

Weekend attacks aimed at those working with U.S. kill at least 70 Page 3

A clearer picture



Seven months after his death in Afghanistan, new details
emerge about how friendly fire took Pat Tillman's life Page 6

Left: Pat Tillman marches at Army graduation in October 2002; Center: Tillman's brother-in-law pours a beer in Tillman's honor at a memorial service in May 2004; Right: Tillman celebrates while playing for the NFL's Arizona Cardinals in 1998. LEFT: KRT; CENTER AND RIGHT: AP; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SIEGFRIED BRUNER/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson DNA: Following two days of searches at the Neverland ranch of Michael Jackson, who is accused of molesting a boy, authorities collected a DNA sample from the singer, a newspaper reported Sunday.

California investigators used a cotton swab to take the sample from inside Jackson's mouth on Saturday, the Santa Barbara News-Press reported, citing unidentified sources.

The move came as police searched Neverland again on Friday and Saturday, just weeks before the pop star's trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 31.

Jackson, 46, has pleaded not guilty to child molestation, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to the alleged victim.



Jackson

World

Ukraine election: The campaign for a third round of voting in Ukraine's bitterly fought presidential contest officially opened Sunday with activists signing up to monitor the election and a top ally of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko speaking confidently of victory.

Lawmaker Yuliya Tymoshenko insisted Yushchenko would prevail against Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who is favored by outgoing President Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We are confident of a colossal victory by Yushchenko," she told reporters, adding that fewer officials are now willing to falsify the vote. "Something has changed, thanks to the people," Tymoshenko said.

New campaigning officially kicked off Sunday, three weeks before the Dec. 26 vote, which was ordered by Ukraine's Supreme Court in a landmark decision to toss out the results of the Nov. 21 runoff.

Kashmir explosion: A remote-controlled roadside bomb blew up an army patrol car in a pre-dawn attack Sunday in disputed Kashmir, killing an Indian army major and 10 other soldiers, police said.

A man who said he spoke on behalf of the Hezb-ul Mujahideen militant group claimed responsibility in a call to the Central News Service. The group is the largest of the militant organizations fighting Indian security forces since 1989 to carve out a separate homeland or merge Kashmir with India's neighbor Pakistan.

The powerful blast in Wachi village hurled the car skyward and left a 10-foot wide crater in the road, police officer Imtiyaz Ahmed said by telephone from the site of the blast, about 40 miles south of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

The 14-year insurgency in India's only Muslim-majority state has claimed more than 66,000 lives. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, but each claims the region in its entirety. They have fought two wars over Kashmir since their independence from British rule in 1947.

Serbia election option: Serbia's pro-Western president has proposed early general elections in the Balkan republic to try to replace the government that has defied Western demands to hand over war crimes suspects, according to a local newspaper report.

Boris Tadic, the popular liberal politician who became Serbia's president in June, accused the conservative Cabinet of Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica of working against state interests by resisting the pres-



Storm's aftermath: Residents walk Sunday on top of debris, which blocks the road and partially covers some of the houses in Infanta town east of Manila, the Philippines. Uprooted trees, mud and other debris blocked down from nearby hills and mountains by landslides and flash floods during a powerful rainstorm earlier in the week destroyed houses and blocked roads. At least 640 people died and about 400 people are missing following a series of storms that wrecked Infanta and neighboring towns.

sure to arrest and extradite more than a dozen Serbs indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

In comments published by Belgrade's daily Politika, Tadic criticized Kostunica's

policy of appealing for voluntary surrender of the suspects rather than sending police to arrest them.

Two Bosnian Serbs indicted in connection with the 1992-95 war in Bosnia have surrendered voluntarily since Kostunica became prime minister this year.

Under the previous government, run by Tadic's Democrats and former Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, more than 20 suspects were arrested or surrendered. Djindjic was assassinated in March 2003, allegedly by Milosevic-era war veterans opposed to any cooperation with The Hague court.

Germany suspect release: German authorities have released a Lebanese man questioned in connection with an alleged planned attack on Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi during his visit to Berlin this week, authorities said Sunday.

The man was arrested in Berlin on Saturday on suspicion of supporting a terrorist organization, but prosecutors have decided not to seek an arrest warrant to keep him in custody, said Hartmut Schneider, spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office. He gave no further details.

A judge in Karlsruhe on Saturday issued a formal arrest warrant against three other men who are accused of belonging to Ansar al-Islam, a group that has mounted attacks on U.S. and allied forces in Iraq since last year's invasion. They were taken into custody on Friday on suspicion of planning an attack on Allawi, hours before he met with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. Prosecutors did not release the suspects' names.

Zimbabwe's vice president: Zimbabwe's first woman vice president, former guerrilla fighter Joyce Mujuru, called for unity in the ruling party after a divisive power struggle over her nomination, state media reported.

Mujuru, 49, was elected Saturday at an annual party convention that was marred by the suspension of seven top party officials

accused of plotting to sway the vice-presidential vote in favor of parliamentary speaker Emmerson Mnangagwa.

The dispute over Mujuru's election was the most dramatic split in the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front since it took power under President Robert Mugabe in 1980.

In traditionally male-dominated Zimbabwean and African society, Mujuru's election was not seen as paving the way for her to become Africa's first woman president, but it blocked Mugabe's male rivals vying for the powerful post close to him.

Japan's caution on N. Korea sanctions: Japan's foreign minister said Sunday Tokyo remains cautious about imposing economic sanctions on North Korea because the impoverished communist country could use it as an excuse to pull out of bilateral talks.

Japanese officials visited Pyongyang last month for talks about Japanese nationals abducted by the North's spies in the 1970s and 80s. But several rounds of talks have brought little progress, prompting calls in Japan for the government to take a harder line against the country — including exploring ways to promote a change of the authoritarian regime.

"If we were to use sanctions, North Korea could use that as a reason or an excuse not to agree to talks," Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura told an Asahi TV morning talk show.

North Korea has admitted kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens, five of whom were allowed to return home to Japan in 2002. North Korea said seven of the missing are dead. But many Japanese are skeptical and suspect the missing — and at least two other unconfirmed abductees — could still be alive in the reclusive country.

Abu Sayyaf roundup: Government troops raided a suspected safehouse of Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist guerrillas in a southern city, killing a rebel commander and capturing four suspected rebels, military officials said Sunday.

The slain rebel, Mahar Gahan, also known by his guerrilla name Abu Muslim, has been linked to several bombings in the south. Lt. Gen. Alberto Bragana, who heads the military's Southern Command, said without elaborating.

The Abu Sayyaf, notorious for kidnappings and beheadings, has been blacklisted by both the U.S. and the U.N. as a terrorist group.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

17 Iraqi workers die in ambush

Unrest kills six GIs since Friday

By NICK WADHAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD Gunmen opened fire on a bus carrying unarmed Iraqis to work at a U.S. weapons dump near Tikrit on Sunday, killing 17 and bringing the toll from three days of intensified insurgent attacks to at least 70 Iraqi dead and dozens wounded.

The attacks, focused in Baghdad and several cities to the north, appeared to be aimed at scaring off those who cooperate with the American military — whether police, national guardsmen, Kurdish militiamen, or ordinary people just looking for a paycheck.

The violence came just weeks after the United States launched major offensives aimed at suppressing guerrillas ahead of crucial elections set for Jan. 30. Later Sunday, several small Sunni Muslim groups joined more influential Sunni clerics in demanding that the vote be postponed by six months.

Sunday's bloodshed began when gunmen opened fire at the bus as it dropped off Iraqis employed by coalition forces at a weapons dump in Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, said Capt. Bill Coppennoll, spokesman for the Tikrit-based U.S. 1st Infantry Division. Coppennoll said 17 people died and 13 wounded in the attack.

Survivors said about seven guerrillas were involved, emptying their clips into the bus before fleeing. The bodies of the victims were brought to a morgue too small to fit all of them; some were left slayed on a street outside.

About an hour later, a suicide car bomber drove into an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint in Beiji, about 75 miles to the north, detonating his explosively-packed vehicle, Coppennoll said. Then gunmen opened fire on the position. Three guardsmen, including a company commander, were killed and 18 wounded, Coppennoll said.

Also Sunday, guerrillas ambushed a joint Iraqi-coalition patrol in al-Haditha, south of Baghdad, and attacked Iraqi National Guardsmen patrolling near Samarra, north of Baghdad. Two Iraqis were killed and 10 wounded.

The attacks seem to be an orchestrated campaign by Iraq's Sunni-led insurgency to strike Iraqis who cooperate in any fashion with the Americans. On Friday, a police station was hit and 16 killed. On Saturday, suicide car bombs hit another police station, killing six, and a bus full of Kurdish militiamen, killing seven.

The raids appear to have an-



JOHN QUEEN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, cordon off an area around the crater left by large car bomb that exploded in Baghdad on Saturday.

other goal as well: resupplying the insurgents' arsenal. Rebels behind Friday's attack looted the police armory, and on Sunday, police said armed men stormed a station about 30 miles south of Fallujah and stole two police cars and a large cache of weapons.

That has not stopped the coalition from arming Iraqi forces. On Sunday, the U.S.-led Multinational Security Transition Command announced Iraqi security forces had received deliveries in November of 5,400 AK-47s, almost 2,000 9mm Glock pistols, 78 rocket-propelled grenade launchers and millions of rounds of ammunition — as well as other material including body armor, night vision goggles, armored personnel carriers and four Russian-designed battle tanks.

Six U.S. soldiers have been killed since Friday as well. That included two soldiers slain Saturday during a patrol in Mosul's Palestinian neighborhood, when they came under fire from insurgents shooting from two mosques and other buildings in the area, according to spokeswoman Capt. Angela Bowman. The U.S. military and Iraqi forces later raided a mosque and detained three suspects.

The raid drew several disguised men out onto the street in protest.

"I swear by God, I swear by God, I swear by God, our retaliation will be severe, God witness



A column of smoke is seen over Baghdad's Green Zone on Saturday. A large explosion and machine gun fire occurred near the area that houses the offices of the interim Iraqi government and several foreign missions, including the U.S. Embassy.

what I say," a masked man shouted before speeding away in a car.

Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group, al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed responsibility for several of the attacks Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, another militant group, Jaish Mohammed — Arabic for the Mohammed Army — issued a statement saying its fighters were lying low for "a few days" but planned more attacks against U.S. forces.

The group's statement, which could not be immediately verified, also warned Iraqis against aiding coalition forces, and said they would be attacked with simi-

lar fury as that directed against the U.S. military.

The latest attacks on Iraqis cooperating with the interim government have been particularly brutal in their scale and have taken on a new urgency in light of the approaching vote.

The U.S.-led coalition had hoped its invasion of the insurgent hotbed of Fallujah last month would cripple the insurgency.

Instead, the rebels appear to have scattered, and, after a brief lull, resumed their campaign.

The Americans had also wanted Iraq's army and police force to

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,269 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 988 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not update its numbers Saturday.

The AP count is nine higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths, Iraq 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,131 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 879 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier was killed by a roadside bomb Saturday north of Baghdad.

■ One U.S. soldier was killed by an explosive Saturday in eastern Baghdad.

■ Two U.S. soldiers died Friday in suicide car bombings of their post near the Jordanian border.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. Bryan S. Wilson, 22, Otterbein, Ind.; died Wednesday in a vehicle incident in Anbar province, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

play a larger role in calming the country before the elections.

Instead, the homegrown troops have only shown how vulnerable they are to devastating and extremely demoralizing attacks.

Acknowledging that problem, the Pentagon decided Wednesday to raise troop levels from 138,000 to 150,000, more than were initially deployed for the war to oust Saddam Hussein last year, to help bring security for the vote.

While Iraq's majority Shiites are eagerly awaiting the election, the Sunni oppose, in part because the violence has been heavy in their areas west and north. The elections by registration there has not begun. About 40 small, mostly Sunni political parties met Sunday to demand the elections be postponed by six months, but stopped short of calling for a boycott.

President Bush, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and Iraq's Sunni lawmaker, Ghazi Yawer, have insisted the vote will be held as scheduled.

Judge: Karpinski must testify at abuse trial

Court orders prison commander to speak on Abu Ghraib conditions

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — A military judge has ordered the former commander of U.S. prisoners in Iraq to testify at the trial of a soldier who says his superiors condoned the abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib.

The judge, Col. James Pohl, said Saturday that Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski's testimony at the trial of Sgt. Javal Davis would be limited to conditions at Abu Ghraib and the interaction there between guards and military interrogators. Karpinski is the highest-level official ordered to testify in the scandal.

Davis has acknowledged stepping on the fingers and toes of detainees, but told investigators that military intelligence personnel appeared to approve. "We were told they had different rules," he said, according to an Army report.

Pohl's decision during a pretrial hearing came as the Navy said it was investigating new photographs obtained by The Associated Press that appear to show Navy SEALs in Iraq sitting on hooded and handcuffed detainees. Other photos show what appears to be bloodied prisoners, one with a gun to his head.

Karpinski has denied knowing about any mistreatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib until photographs were made public at the end of April showing hooded and naked prisoners being tormented by their U.S. captors. She was relieved of her command after abuses at the prison came to light.

In an interview with the AP, Karpinski said a "conspiracy"

among top U.S. commanders left her to blame for the abuses. A report issued by an independent panel of nongovernment experts blamed Karpinski for leadership failures that "helped set the conditions at the prison which led to the abuses."

Her attorney, Neal A. Puckett, said Saturday afternoon that he had not been notified of Pohl's order. But he said Karpinski, who is now in the Army Reserves, gave a deposition in an earlier case.

"She's always been willing to cooperate in any investigation. There's no reason for her not to testify," he said.

Davis is among seven members of the 372nd Military Police Company charged with humiliating and assaulting prisoners at the Baghdad prison.

Pfc. Lyndie England, whose court-martial is scheduled for Jan. 18, also sought to call Karpinski a witness, along with Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The judge in her case rejected those requests, but allowed England's attorneys to submit a deposition from Karpinski as evidence.

Davis faces charges including conspiracy to maltreat detainees, assault, dereliction of duty and lying in official statements. He has denied hurting prisoners but said he was "ordering it to soften them up."

If convicted on all counts, he faces eight years in a military prison.

Pretrial hearings at Fort Hood on Saturday for Davis and Spc. Sabrina Harman were originally scheduled to begin next year in Baghdad. No reason was given for the decision

"She's always been willing to cooperate in any investigation. There's no reason for her not to testify."

Neal A. Puckett
Karpinski's attorney



Army Sgt. Javal Davis, left, stands with his attorney Paul Bergrin before a pretrial hearing at Fort Hood, Texas, on Saturday. Davis is one of the seven members of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company charged with humiliating and assaulting prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.

to move the trials to the United States.

Paul Bergrin, a lawyer representing Davis, said his client's behavior was not unreasonable given the conditions he worked and lived under at Abu Ghraib: long hours, oppressive heat, frequent mortar attacks by insurgents and pressure from superiors to obtain useful information from detainees.

Asked if Davis is bearing blame for interrogation decisions made at top levels in his command, Bergrin said, "That's the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

Bergrin sought a dozen detainees to tell military jurors that Davis treated them well and acted professionally. Pohl cut that number down to four.

Maj. Michael Holley and Capt. Christopher Graveline, the military prosecutors, are restricted under law from commenting on pending cases.

Harman was photographed standing behind naked, hooded Iraqis stacked in a human pyramid. She also was shown next to dead body packed in ice giving thumbs-up signs with Spc. Charles Graner Jr., described as the ringleader.

Harman is accused of photographing some of the abuse, participating in sexual humiliation of naked prisoners, writing "rapist" on the leg of a detainee who then was forced to pose naked with other prisoners, and placing wires in the hands of a detainee and telling him he would be electrocuted

if he fell off a box. Harman's attorney, Frank Spinner, said after her brief hearing Saturday that he has yet to lock in his defense strategy.

"I'm waiting to see what happens in [the Graner and Davis] cases," he said.

Graner is scheduled to appear in a Fort Hood courtroom Monday.

He is expected to seek dismissal of charges, alleging he cannot get a fair hearing because President Bush and military leaders have already said they believe he should be punished.

Graner was in the courtroom Saturday to watch Davis' and Harman's hearings. He later declined a request for comment.

Graner is scheduled for court-martial beginning Jan. 7. Davis' trial is set to begin Feb. 2, and Harman's is to begin March 30.

General defends Guard training at Dona Ana

BY SCOTT GOLD
Los Angeles Times

HOUSTON — The chief of the National Guard said Friday that an informal inquiry at an Army base where soldiers have alleged they are being poorly trained for instead of being being prepared "to be successful and survive their mission in Iraq."

"Are they finely honed and ready to go today? No," said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, adding that he has found some problems at the Fort Bliss Training Complex, which straddles the Texas-New Mexico Line.

"But that's why they've got more training to do."

Since soldiers at the Army's Dona Ana Range leveled their charges in a Los Angeles Times article, however, additional guard members have come forward to reiterate the battalion's concerns.

"We're not being prepared for our mission," one sergeant said in a telephone interview Thursday night. "A lot of times we don't even know what our mission is."

The soldiers said the training was so poor that they fear there will be needless casualties in Iraq.

Blum, who has served in the National Guard since 1968, was appointed chief by President Bush last spring. He oversees the half-million people who serve in the Army and Air National Guards.

The soldiers, members of a Modesto, Calif.-based battalion of the California Army National Guard, said they were under lockdown at Dona Ana, a former World War II prisoner-of-war camp, and are being treated more like prisoners than soldiers.

Although supportive of the war in Iraq and eager to serve, they said that they have received very little training that would prepare them for the missions they expect to

face when they arrive overseas in January or February. For example, they said, they have had virtually no instruction regarding convoy protection or guarding against insurgents' roadside bombs.

At the center of their allegations is the changing role of the National Guard and reservists, who, as the war in Iraq continues, have been moved rapidly to the front lines. About 40 percent of the troops in Iraq are either National Guard soldiers or reservists.

The guard troops at Dona Ana have alleged that the military commanders do not trust them to go to war, and have implemented a two-tiered training regimen — one for them and one for their active-duty counterparts. The Army denies it, and Blum said he found no evidence of "second-class citizen stuff" after visiting Fort Bliss and Dona Ana on Thursday and Friday.

Blum said it has not been easy to change

the role of the National Guard, but that he embraces its new mission.

"This country should never go to war for any reason without the National Guard," he said. "When you call up the Guard, you call up America... Does it make it politically harder? Absolutely. It should be a hard decision to send young men and women to war."

Blum said his visit did reveal some shortcomings in the National Guard's training, but he said he believes the issues will now be addressed.

For instance, he said, commanders probably should have given the soldiers more time off, the soldiers said they received one day off before Thanksgiving since they were activated in August. And Blum said the training regimen has not been adequately explained to soldiers, leaving some with the impression that their training is substandard.

"Leadership has an obligation to explain it to the last guy in the last rank," he said.

U.N. says violence too great for elections

BY ALISSA J. RUBIN
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — The U.N. special envoy to Iraq said elections scheduled for the end of January may have to be postponed.

A delay in the elections would anger many Shiite Muslims, who are expected to win the largest portion of the seats in the transitional national assembly to be chosen in the vote.

And it would deter American plans to begin reducing the number of troops in Iraq next year.

In an article published in a Dutch newspaper Saturday, U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said bluntly, "It is a mess in Iraq." Asked whether it was possible to hold elections under current conditions, Brahimi said, "If the circumstances stay as they are, I don't think so," according to a Reuters report on the article.

It was the first time that an international figure of such stature has raised a red flag publicly about the difficulty of going forward with elections.

Some Sunnis want vote delayed

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — About 40 small, mostly Sunni political parties demanded Sunday that national elections set for Jan. 30 be postponed by six months, but stopped short of calling for a boycott of the vote.

The parties and tribal leaders, holding a conference in Baghdad, echoed concerns expressed earlier by Iraq's most influential Sunni politicians that huge areas where the country's insurgency is strong are not safe

enough to hold the vote for a national assembly, and hundreds of thousands of people won't show up.

"This means a council will emerge that does not represent all and thus will lack legitimacy," the leaders said in a statement released after the meeting.

Voter registration got under way in November, but some parts of the country, mostly in the Sunni triangle west and north of Baghdad, have been too dangerous for electoral officials to get to work. Insurgents have

repeatedly warned people not to vote, and Iraqi merchants handing out registration cards have reported being intimidated.

The statement said postponing the voting for at least six months will create a better atmosphere for elections and pave the way for broader participation.

The vote will be for a 275-member assembly that will appoint a government and draft a permanent constitution. If adopted in a referendum next year, the constitution would form the legal basis for another general election to be held by Dec. 15.

ment if he thought the January polls were not feasible, although it would be up to the Iraqi government to decide whether to hold them. "As we go, we will give them honest advice," he said.

The view of the United Nations on the viability of elections is crucial because U.N. officials may be the only ones with the credibility to persuade the Shiite leadership, and specifically Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, that a delay would be for the good of the country and would not compromise Shiite ambitions for political power.

Al-Sistani, the senior religious leader for the country's majority Shiites, had wanted direct elections to be held last June but after meeting with U.N. technical experts agreed to wait an additional six months in order to ensure more complete voter registration and broader participation. It is not clear whether he could be persuaded to wait again.

Maggie Farley at the United Nations and Rosh Ahmed in Mosul contributed to this report.

Statement claims militants preparing to attack U.S.-forces

Hundreds of displaced Iraqis demand to be allowed to return to Fallujah

The Associated Press

HABANIYAH, Iraq — More than a thousand Fallujah residents displaced by the U.S.-led attack on their city rallied Sunday to demand they be allowed to return home, while a militant group warned that insurgents are preparing more attacks against U.S. forces.

The fierce military campaign in Fallujah, launched last month to wipe out insurgents allied with Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, forced most of the city's 300,000 people to leave their homes for Baghdad or nearby cities like Habaniyah, about 12 miles south of Fallujah.

About 1,500 displaced Fallujah residents demonstrated in Habaniyah demanding to return to their city, parts of which sustained heavy damage during the military operation last month.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have pledged to reconstruct areas devastated by the fighting.

During the protest, fliers were distributed in the name of a prominent militant group, Jaish Mohammed (Arabic for "Mohammed's Army"), which U.S. officials claim is an umbrella group for former intelligence agents, army and security officials, and Baath

Party members. The statement was released in the name of the group's leadership, but could not be independently verified.

The statement said militants have been lying low for a "few days" but are planning to resume attacks against U.S.-led coalition forces. The group also threatened to kill Iraqis aiding coalition troops and warned that the interim government's forces that they would be attacked with similar fury as that directed against the U.S. military.

"The so-called [Iraqi] National Guard has gone too far in harming our people," the statement said. "They have renounced their religion ... and thus they should be fought in the same manner the infidels."

The statement said Jaish Mohammed fighters have agreed with other militant groups "to decrease the operations against the occupiers ... for a few days to close ranks, boost morale and prepare for unending war against the occupiers ... and against anyone who cooperates with them."

Last month, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Jaish Mohammed fighters had been arrested and that the group was known to have cooperated with al-Zarqawi, al-Qaida and Saddam loyalists.

and increase the number of electoral experts in Iraq, according to U.S. and U.N. officials.

Annun and U.N. election officials have said that polling preparations are on track, and they are quietly building up the U.N. presence in Iraq. But the U.N.'s con-

sistent line is that security conditions are the primary consideration in determining whether the elections can be held as planned.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times last month, Annun said he would not shrink from telling the Iraqi govern-

Veteran honors troops killed in Iraq



Jody Gough, of Bellevue, Wash., a Marine veteran who served for two years in the Korean War, pauses Saturday, in Bellevue, Wash., at a memorial to soldiers who have died in Iraq.

Iraqi organization leaves Fallujah

FALLUJAH, Iraq — The Iraqi Red Crescent Society withdrew from the battleground city of Fallujah on Sunday amid concerns over continuing insecurity, the organization's chief said. U.S.-led forces later detained eight men unaffiliated with the aid group who had sought shelter in the group's building.

Saad Hakki said coalition forces asked the group Sunday to withdraw "temporarily" from its building in Fallujah. The neighborhood where it's located has seen sporadic fighting since a campaign by Ameri-

can and Iraqi forces last month to uproot insurgents operating in the city.

He said the Red Crescent's seven employees in Fallujah hoped to return soon.

"The Red Crescent pulled out for security reasons," Hakki said. "Maybe, we will return tomorrow, maybe the day after. We don't know," he said. A U.S. military spokeswoman, Maj. M. Naomi Hawkins, confirmed the group's departure, but said it had chosen to leave the city on its own. The discrepancy could not be immediately reconciled.

From The Associated Press

Friendly fire: The death of Pat Tillman

Communication breakdown, a broken Humvee and a questionable platoon split set the stage for Army Ranger and former NFL player Pat Tillman's death in Afghanistan

BY STEVE COLL

The Washington Post

It ended on a stony ridge in fading light. Spc. Pat Tillman lay dying behind a boulder. A young fellow U.S. Army Ranger stretched prone beside him, praying quietly as tracer bullets poured in.

"Cease fire! Friendlies!" Tillman cried out.

Smoke drifted from a signal grenade Tillman had detonated minutes before in a desperate bid to show his platoon members they were shooting the wrong men. For a few moments, the firing had stopped.

Tillman stood up, chattering in relief. Then the machine gun bursts erupted again.

"I could hear the pain in his voice," recalled the young Ranger near him. Tillman kept calling out that he was a friendly, and he shouted, "I am Pat [expletive] Tillman, damn it!" His comrade recalled: "He said this over and over again until he stopped."

Myths shaped Pat Tillman's reputation, and mystery shrouded his death. A long-haired, fierce-hitting defensive back with the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League, he turned away a \$3.6 million contract after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to volunteer for the war on terrorism, ultimately giving his life in combat in Taliban-infested southeastern Afghanistan.

Millions of stunned Americans mourned his death last April 22 and embraced his sacrifice as a rare example of courage and national service. But the full story of how Tillman ended up on that Afghan ridge and why he died at the hands of his own comrades has never been told.

Dozens of witness statements, e-mails, investigation findings, logbooks, maps and photographs obtained by The Washington Post show that Tillman died unnecessarily after botched communications, a mistaken decision to split his platoon over the objections of its leader and negligent shooting by pumped-up young Rangers — some in their first firefight — who failed to identify their targets as they blasted their way out of a frightening ambush.

The records show Tillman fought bravely and honorably until his last breath. They also show that his superiors exaggerated his actions and invented details as they embellished his legend in public, at the same time suppressing details that might tarnish Tillman's commanders.

Army commanders hurriedly awarded Tillman a posthumous Silver Star for valor and released a nine-paragraph account of his heroism that made no mention of fratricide. A month later, the head of the Army's Special Operations Command, Lt. Gen. Philip Kensing Jr., called a news conference to disclose in a brief statement that Tillman "probably" died by "friendly fire." Kensing refused to answer questions.

Friends and family describe Tillman as an American original, a maverick who burned with intensity. He was wild, exuberant, loyal, compassionate and driven, they say. He bucked convention, devoured books and debated conspiracy theories. He defied straight talk about uncomfortable truths.

After his death, the Army that Tillman served did not do the same.

Pat Tillman's decision to trade the celebrity and luxury of pro football for a grunt's life at the bottom of the Ranger chain of command shocked many people, but not those who felt they knew him best.

In high school and college, a mane of flax-



Spc. Pat Tillman marches as he performs the honor of being the guidon bearer during graduation ceremonies Oct. 25, 2002, on Sand Hill at Fort Benning, Ga. Tillman, the former Arizona Cardinals star who walked away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to serve with the Army Rangers, was killed in Afghanistan by friendly fire.

Uthlaut told his commanders, he had a choice: He could keep his platoon together until the Humvee had been disposed of, or he could divide his platoon in half, with one "serial" handling the vehicle while the other serial moved immediately to the objective. The A Company commander, under pressure from his superior to get moving, ordered Uthlaut to split his platoon.

hair poured from beneath his football helmet. His muscles rippled in a perfect taper from the neck down. "Dude" was his favorite pronoun; for fun he did handstands on the roof of the family house. He pedaled shirtless on a bicycle to his first pro training camp.

He was very close to his younger brother Kevin, then playing minor league baseball for the Cleveland Indians organization. They finished each other's sentences, friends recounted. They enlisted in the U.S. Army Rangers together in spring 2002. Less than a year later, they shipped out to Iraq.

In Pat Tillman's first firefight during the initial months of the Iraq war, he watched his lead gunner die within minutes, stepped into his place and battled steadfastly, said Steve White, a U.S. Navy SEAL on the same mission. "He was thirsty to be the best," White said.

Yet Tillman accepted his ordinary status in the military and rarely talked about himself. One night he confided to White that he had just turned down an NFL team's attempt to sign him to a huge contract and free him from his Army service early.

The Tillman brothers served together in the "Black Sheep," otherwise known as 2nd Platoon, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. They were elite — special operators transferred from Iraq in the spring to conduct sweep and search missions against the Taliban and al-Qaida remnants in eastern Afghanistan. The Rangers worked with CIA paramilitaries, Afghan allies and other special forces on grid-by-grid patrols designed to flush out and entrap enemy guerrillas. They moved in small, mobile, lethal units.

On April 13, 2004, the Tillman brothers rolled out with their fellow Black Sheep

First in a two-part series

from a clandestine base near the Pakistan border to begin anti-Taliban patrols with two other Ranger platoons. A week later, the other platoons returned to base. So did the two senior commanding officers of A Company, records show. They left behind the 2nd Platoon to carry on operations near Khost, in Pakтия province.

Left in command of the 2nd Platoon was then-Lt. David Uthlaut, a recent graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he had been named the prestigious first captain of his class. Now serving as a captain in Iraq, Uthlaut declined to be interviewed for these articles, but his statements and field communications are among the documents obtained by The Post.

Uthlaut's mission, as Army investigators later put it, was to kill or capture any "anti-coalition members" that he and his men could find.

The trouble began with a Humvee's broken fuel pump.

A helicopter flew into Pakтия with a spare on the night of April 21. But the next morning, the Black Sheep's mechanic had no luck with his repair.

Uthlaut ordered his platoon to pull out. He commanded 34 men in nine vehicles, including the busted Humvee. They towed the broken vehicle with straps because they lacked a proper tow bar. After several hours on rough, dirt-rock roads, the Humvee's front end buckled. It could move no farther. Uthlaut pulled his men into a tiny village called Mangarhar to assess options.

Uthlaut messaged his regiment's Tactical Operations Center far away at Bagram, near Kabul. He asked for a helicopter to hoist the Humvee back to base. No dice, came the reply: There would be no transport chopper available for at least two or three days.

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While Uthlaut tried to develop other ideas, his commanders at the base squabbled about the delay. According to investigative records, a senior officer in the Rangers' operations center, whose name is redacted from documents obtained by The Post, complained pointedly to A Company's commander, Uthlaut's immediate superior.

"This vehicle problem better not delay us any more," the senior officer said, a letter recalled in a sworn statement. The 2nd Platoon was already 24 hours behind schedule, he said. It was supposed to be conducting clearing operations to a southeastern Afghan village called Manah.

By 4 p.m. Uthlaut had a solution, he believed. He could hire a local "jings truck" driver to tow the Humvee out to a nearby road where the Army could move down and pick it up. In this scenario, Uthlaut told his commanders, he had a choice: He could keep his platoon together until the Humvee had been disposed of, or he could divide his platoon in half, with one "serial" handling the vehicle while the other serial moved immediately to the objective.

The A Company commander, under pressure from his superior to get moving, ordered Uthlaut to split his platoon.

SEE TILLMAN ON PAGE 7

"I could hear the pain in his voice," recalled the young Ranger near him. Tillman kept calling out that he was a friendly, and he shouted, "I am Pat [expletive] Tillman, damn it!"



Pat Tillman Sr., father of Pat Tillman, speaks during a memorial service for Cpl. Tillman in San Jose, Calif., on May 3, 2004. Tillman was killed during a reaction to an ambush that resulted in friendly fire while serving in Afghanistan.

AP

Tillman: Waving arms, signal grenade didn't stop shooting

TILLMAN, FROM PAGE 6

But why? Uhlaut asked, as he recalled in a sworn statement. Do you want us to change procedures and conduct sweep operations at night? No, said the A Company commander.

"So the only reason you want me to split up is so I can get boots on the ground in sector before it gets dark?" an incredulous Uhlaut asked, as he recalled.

Yes, said his commander.

He pulled his men together hastily and briefed them. Serial One, led by Uhlaut and including Pat Tillman, would move immediately to Manah.

Serial Two would follow, but would soon branch off toward a highway to drop off the vehicle.

Sgt. Greg Baker, a young and slightly built Ranger nearing the end of his enlistment, commanded the heaviest-armed vehicle in Serial Two, just behind the jinga tow truck. Baker's men wielded the platoon's only 50-caliber machine gun, plus an M-40B machine gun, an M-249 squad automatic weapon and three M-4 carbines. Baker's truck would do the heaviest shooting if there were any attack. Two of his gunners had never seen combat before.

Baker declined to comment for these articles. A second gunner in his vehicle, Trevor Alders, also declined to discuss the incident.

Kevin Tillman also was assigned to Serial Two. He manned an MK19 gun in the trailing vehicle, well behind Baker.

Pat Tillman's serial, with Uhlaut in command, soon turned into a steep and narrow canyon, passed through safety and approached Manah as planned.

Behind them, Serial Two briefly started down a different road, then stopped. The Afghan tow truck driver said he couldn't navigate the pitted road. He suggested they turn around and follow the same route that Serial One had taken. After Serial Two passed Manah, the group could circle around to the designated highway. Serial Two's leader, the platoon sergeant, agreed.

There was no radio communication between the two serials about this change in plans.

At 6:34 p.m. Serial Two, with about 17 Rangers in six vehicles, entered the narrow canyon that Serial One had just left.

When he heard the first explosion, the platoon sergeant thought one of his vehicles had struck a land mine or a roadside bomb.

There had been in the canyon only a minute. In his machine gun-laden truck, Greg Baker also thought somebody had hit a mine. He and his men jumped out of their vehicle. Baker looked up at the sheer canyon walls. The canyon was five to 10 yards across at its narrowest. "I noticed rocks falling," he recalled in a statement, and

"then I saw the second and third mortar rounds hit." He could hear, too, the rattle of enemy small-arms fire.

It was not a bomb — it was an ambush. They were trapped in the worst possible place: the kill zone of an ambush. Baker and his men had dismounted their vehicles. Worse, when they scrambled back and tried to move, they discovered that the lumbering Afghan tow truck in their serial was stalled, blocking their exit.

Baker "ran up and grabbed" the truck driver and his Afghan interpreter and "threw them in the truck and started to move," as he recalled. He fired up the canyon walls until he ran out of ammunition.

Then he jumped from the tow truck, ran back to his vehicle and reloaded. When the tow truck stopped again, the Afghan driver to move around it.

Finally freed, Baker's heavily armed Humvee raced out of the ambush canyon, its machine guns pounding fire.

Ahead of them, parked outside a small village near Manah, Uhlaut heard an explosion. From his position he "could not see the enemy or make an adequate assessment of the situation," so he ordered his men to move toward the firing.

Uhlaut designated Pat Tillman as one of three fire team leaders and ordered him to join other Rangers "to press the fight."

Uhlaut tried to raise Serial Two on his radio. He wanted to find out where the Rangers were and to tell them where his serial had set up. But he couldn't get through — the high canyon walls blocked radio signals. Tillman moved down the slope with other Rangers and "into a position where he could engage the enemy," the sergeant recalled. With Tillman were a young Ranger and a bearded Afghan militia fighter who was part of the 2nd Platoon's traveling party.

A Ranger nearer watched Tillman take cover. "I remember not liking his position," he recalled. "I had just seen a red tracer come up over us ... which immediately struck me as being a M240 tracer. ... At that time the issue of friendly fire began turning over in my mind."

Several of Serial Two's Rangers said

later that as they shot their way out of the canyon, they had no idea where their comrades in Serial One might be.

As he fired, Gunner Greg Baker "noticed muzzle flashes" coming from a ridge to the right of the village they were now approaching. Everyone in his vehicle poured fire at the flashes in a deafening roar.

As they pulled alongside the ridge, the gunners poured a barrage of hundreds of rounds into the area Tillman and other members of Serial One had taken up positions. Army investigators later concluded.

The gunner of the M-2 50-caliber machine gun in Baker's truck fired every round he had.

The shooters saw only "shapes," a Ranger-appointed investigator wrote, and all of them directed bursts of machine gun fire "without positively identifying the shapes."

Yet not everyone in Baker's convoy was confused. The driver of Baker's vehicle or the one behind him — the records are not clear — pulled free of the ambush canyon and quickly recognized the parked U.S. Army vehicles of Serial One ahead of him.

The driver shouted twice: "We have friends on top!" Then he screamed "No!" Then he yelled several more times to cease fire, he recalled. "No one heard me."

Up on the ridge, Tillman and Rangers around him began to wear their arms and fire from Baker's vehicle.

"They couldn't hear us," recalled the soldier nearest Tillman. Tillman "came up with the idea to let a smoke grenade go." As its thick smoke unfurled, "this stopped the friendly contact for a few moments," the Ranger recalled.

"We thought the battle was over, so we were relieved, getting up and stretching out, and talking with one another."

Suddenly he saw the attacking Humvee move into "a better position to fire on us." He heard a new machine gun burst hit the ground, praying, as Pat Tillman felt.

A sergeant further up the ridge from Tillman fired a flare — an even clearer signal than Tillman's smoke grenade that these were friendly forces.

By now Baker's truck had pulled past

Tomorrow: The Army investigates — and protects — its own

the ridge and had come into plain sight of Serial One's U.S. vehicles. Baker said later that he looked down the road and ran back up to the ridge. In the village behind Tillman's ridge, Uhlaut and his radio operator had been pinned down by the streams of fire pouring from Baker's vehicle. Both were eventually hit by what they assumed was machine gun fire.

The platoon sergeant jumped out and began searching for Uhlaut, angry that nobody seemed to know what was happening. He found the lieutenant sitting near a wall of the village, dropped down beside him and demanded to know what he was doing. "At that point I spotted the blood around his mouth" and realized there were casualties — and that Uhlaut was one of them, wounded but still conscious.

On the ridge the young Ranger nearest Pat Tillman screamed, "Oh my [expletive] God!" again and again, as one of his comrades recalled.

The Ranger beside Tillman had been lying flat as Tillman initially called out for a cease-fire. Then Tillman went silent as the firing continued. Now the young Ranger saw "a river of blood" coming from Tillman's position. He got up, looked at Tillman, and saw that "his head was gone."

Seventeen minutes after Serial Two had entered the canyon, 2nd Platoon reported that its forces "were no longer in contact," as a Ranger-appointed investigator later put it. It was not clear then or later who the Afghan attackers spotted by half a dozen Rangers in both serials had been, or whether any were killed.

Nine minutes later, a regiment log shows the platoon requested a medevac helicopter and reported two soldiers killed in action, including Pat Tillman, 27.

Kevin Tillman declined to be interviewed for these stories and was asked by danger investigators to provide sworn statements. But according to other statements and sources familiar with the investigation, Kevin was initially asked to take up guard duty on the outskirts of the shooting scene.

It would take almost five more weeks — after a flag-draped coffin ceremony, a Silver Star award and a news release by a public memorial attended by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Jake Plummer and newswoman Maria Shriver — for the Rangers to be Army "officially acknowledged." Tillman, his family or the public that Pat Tillman had been killed by his own men.

Staff writer Josh White contributed to this report.

Ex-rivals drawing up Taliban amnesty list

Pakistan, Afghanistan to cooperate on plan that could allow U.S. to reduce troop levels

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Pakistan will help Afghanistan identify Taliban members eligible for an amnesty that could allow the United States to reduce its troop levels here as soon as next summer, a senior U.S. commander said Sunday.

LT. Gen. David Barno also told The Associated Press that the uneasy Central Asian neighbors had agreed to move together against dozens of Taliban leaders viewed as "criminal," many of whom are rumored to be living in Pakistan.

"As that list gets finalized here, I think in the very near future we'll see both countries moving forward to look to arrest and bring to justice those individuals," said Barno, the commander of all U.S. forces in Afghanistan. "Ultimately, the number will be resolved down to as small a number as is possible that satisfies all of the parties involved, and it could be less than 100."

Afghan officials have repeatedly urged supporters of the former ruling regime to give up the fight or return from exile and lend a hand in rebuilding a country shattered by a quarter-century of war and a debilitating drought.

But only since the victory of U.S.-backed leader Hamid Karzai in the landmark Oct. 9 presidential election have plans emerged for a reconciliation program. It could anger ethnic minorities who suffered under the Taliban



Lt. Gen. David Barno, commander of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan, answers a question during an interview in Kabul on Sunday. Pakistan will help Afghanistan identify Taliban leaders eligible for an amnesty that could allow the United States to reduce its troop levels here as soon as next summer, Barno said.

as well as regional powers such as India and Iran who are wary of Pakistan's influence in the region.

Barno said he expected Karzai, who is to be sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected leader

on Tuesday, to produce a list of Taliban leaders who are beyond the pale and pass it to Islamabad.

The government of Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf would then "review it and make

any comments on it, and I think there'll be a collectively subscribed-to list that says here we all believe we're going to go after," he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military

will start a register of lower-level Taliban willing to return to their villages and live in peace as a precursor to a reconciliation plan that the Afghan government has yet to formally announce.

"There'll be great interest in those first few figures who come in to see how they're treated, to see if they're protected or not," the general said. "If it works, I think that there will be a significant number of people following it up."

"I think you'll see some of it starting in December, or in January for sure," he said. The military is hoping that the Taliban's failure to carry through on a threat to seriously disrupt the Oct. 9 presidential vote will convince enough of them that the insurgency has no future, taking the pressure off U.S. troops who have failed to crush an insurgency focused along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Commanders have said they may maintain their current troop strength of 18,000 until mid-2006, but Barno suggested a review could come sooner. NATO and the fledgling Afghan National Army are also expected to field more troops over the coming year.

"I think by next summer we'll have a much better sense if the security threat is diminishing as a result of, say, a significant reconciliation with large numbers of Taliban," Barno said. "That will mean the security dynamics shift tremendously, and of course our forces are sized against the security threat."

Weapons cache found

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romanian troops operating in Afghanistan have discovered an important weapons cache near Kandahar, the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

A patrol from the Romanian "Daring Eagles" infantry battalion discovered the cache about four miles east of Kandahar.

They called a U.S. de-mining squad to the site and searched the area together, finding two containers buried underground, the ministry added.

Inside, they found four cannons, 98 grenade launchers, and dozens of machine guns and rifles.

Gitto tribal

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A high-ranking Taliban fighter accused of planning attacks on U.S. coalition forces went before a military review tribunal Saturday in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The prisoner, 58, was accused of leading a group of 12 members of the al-Qaida terrorist network and the ousted Taliban regime in planning attacks on U.S. coalition forces, said Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

From The Associated Press

Kimmit: New photos show acts of isolated few

BY SARAH EL DEEB

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — A former military spokesman in Iraq said Saturday new pictures showing apparent abuse of Iraqi prisoners were the acts of an isolated few but will be used by some to try to tarnish the entire U.S. military.

Gen. Mark Kimmitt, now based in Qatar, spoke on the pan-Arab television network a day after the U.S. military launched a criminal investigation into photographs that appear to show Navy SEALs in Iraq sitting on hooded and handcuffed detainees.

Other photos show what appear to be bloodied prisoners, one with a gun to his head.

The photos, found by an Associated Press reporter, were among hundreds in an album posted on a commercial photo-sharing Web site by a woman who said her husband brought them from Iraq after his tour of duty. Some of the photos have date stamps suggesting they were taken in May 2003, which could make them the earliest evidence of possible abuse of prisoners in Iraq. The far more brutal practices photographed in Abu Ghraib prison occurred months later.

The photos were turned over to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which instructed the SEAL command to determine whether they show any serious crimes, said Navy Cmdr. Jeff Bender, a spokesman for the Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif.

"That investigation will determine the identities of the troops and what they were doing in the photos."



A photo found posted on a commercial photo-sharing Web site operated by a woman who said her husband brought the photos from Iraq after his tour of duty appears to show a prisoner having his picture taken at gunpoint.

Kimmitt, the spokesman in Iraq at the time of the Abu Ghraib scandal, said he believes the photos show the acts of an isolated few.

After months of investigation, Kimmitt said the number of U.S. military troops involved in acts of abuse has been found to be very limited.

Asked by al-Jazeera if such pictures are a problem, Kimmitt said they are certainly a "tool" and some will try to use them to show the U.S. military in a negative light.

After outraged reaction from the Arab world to the first Abu Ghraib pictures, President Bush appeared on Arab television in May and said the torture was the act of a few.

The new photos drew strong reactions in Arab media, as did the earlier ones.

"The two scandals confirm the image about the Americans known in the Middle East: that the Americans are not a charity or a humanitarian organization that is leading an experiment of democracy," said Sateh Nourredine, managing editor of the Lebanese leftist newspaper al-Safir. "Rather, (the U.S. government) is leading a retaliatory operation following the Sept. 11 attacks."

Nourredine said the photos "will definitely be front page news" in his paper's Monday edition. Yonadim Kana, a member of an Iraqi government advisory and oversight group, said the photos were "rare cases exaggerated by the media."

One photo on the front page of the daily Egyptian newspaper al-Ahram showed three hooded prisoners pressed against one another on a floor with what appear to be white sheets wrapped around their torsos. The photo caption read: "Signs of a new scandal."

On a Web site known for its militant content, contributors also posted some of the photos, showing the faces of the U.S. SEALs — one with a serviceman sitting on top of a group of prisoners — but with the faces of the prisoners blackened. The photos were similar to those carried by the satellite stations but had comments on them such as "God destroy America," and "God help the Mujahideen," or holy fighters.

It is unclear who took the pictures.

IN THE WORLD

Egypt releases Israeli Arab in prisoners swap

BY REVITAL LEVY-STEIN
The Associated Press

ELIAT, Israel — Egypt freed an Israeli Arab man convicted of spying in exchange for Israel's release of six Egyptian students Sunday, a swap that signaled a warming of relations that had been severely strained by the four-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Israel may also release Palestinian prisoners in the future, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said.

Egypt released Azzam Azzam, who was sentenced in 1975 to 15 years in prison after an Egyptian court convicted him of espionage.

At the time, Azzam ran a textile factory in Egypt, and Israel has denied he was an agent.

The case against Azzam was based, in part, on a pair of women's undergarments soaked in invisible ink allegedly found in Azzam's suitcase. Egyptian officials accused him of giving the undergarments to an Egyptian accomplice, who used the invisible ink

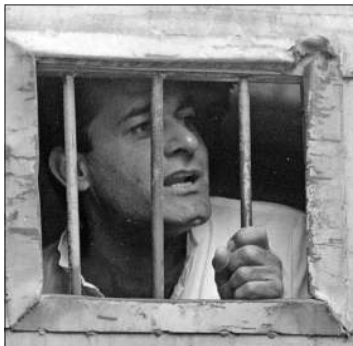
to pass Israel information on Egyptian factories.

Israel, in turn, released six Egyptian students who had sneaked into the country in August and were arrested on suspicion they tried to kidnap Israeli soldiers and commander a tank.

Azzam's imprisonment has been a key point of friction between Israel and Egypt, whose ties remain cool despite their 1979 peace treaty, and the students' arrest had angered many in Egypt. But Israel's relations with the Palestinians and with Egypt have been steadily improving since the death last month of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The transfer took place at the Taba crossing between Israel and Egypt. After Azzam crossed into Israel, he was taken to a nearby airport at the Red Sea resort of Eilat. Israeli security officials who accompanied Azzam said he cried and flashed a victory sign as he emerged from the van.

Several hours later, he boarded a small military aircraft, smiling and waving before takeoff.



Azzam Azzam, an Israeli Arab accused of spying in Egypt for Israel, arrives at the court building in Cairo for a session of his trial in 1997. The convicted man, jailed since 1996, was returned to Israel in exchange for six Egyptian students.

Asked by reporters how he was, he said: "Very good. Thank you, thank you."

Azzam, 42, briefly spoke to his wife Amal, as well as to Sharon, from Eilat. "Azzam, I can't believe it's you," his wife told him, looking faint and emotional as the family cheered in the background.

Sharon said in a statement Sunday that he was considering releasing an unspecified number of Palestinian prisoners as part of

the swap with Egypt. More than 7,000 Palestinians are being held by Israel.

The arrests of the six Egyptian university students and the recent shooting deaths of three Egyptian policemen by Israelis along the border — had inflamed public sentiments in Egypt.

Israeli officials said the six crossed into Egypt after their release.

An Egyptian security official said the students may face charges in Egypt for illegally crossing the border.

Soldier threatens to blow up army depot

By The Associated Press

CHALONS-EN-CHAMPAGNE, France — Angry about being forced to retire, a French soldier held himself up in an army depot containing 60 tons of explosives and threatened to blow it up Sunday, officials said. Authorities led an evacuation of hundreds of residents from nearby villages.

The 46-year-old warrant officer seized control of the warehouse Saturday where he works near the town of Fere-Champenoise, about 30 miles east of Paris, the officials said.

Rescue workers fanned out in three villages around the depot to escort some 400 residents beyond the safety perimeter, said Jean-Luc Guillemot, a government official in the Marne region.

Dozens of police officers blocked off a mile perimeter around the warehouse, which contains some 60 tons of explosives — mostly anti-tank mines. Officers tried to coax out the man, who was identified only by the surname Le Drohic, a military spokesman said.

UNICEF says more than 170 million children worldwide are underfed

BY SADAQAT JAN
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — More than 170 million children worldwide are malnourished and 120 million never attend school, the executive director of the U.N. children's agency said Sunday, citing the critical role volunteers play in improving the lives of youths everywhere.

UNICEF chief Carol Bellamy also underlined the challenges of improving primary health care for children around the world, as she opened an international conference in the Pakistani capital to encourage volunteerism at aid agencies and in government.

"Children under the age of 5 are still dying at a rate of nearly 10 million a year from preventable causes like diarrhea, measles and acute respiratory infections," she told delegates at the conference.

More than 170 million children globally remain malnourished, and over 120 million young people, many of them girls, "never see the inside of a school," said Bellamy, who arrived in the Pakistani capital Sunday for a three-day visit to discuss cooperation in health and education projects.

Literacy rates are low in Pakistan. UNICEF estimates that three out of every 10 children aged 5 to 9 years never go to school, and dropout rates are high. Of those children who enroll, only half reach fifth grade, according to UNICEF.

Also addressing the conference, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz invited volunteers to help Pakistan's government to fight "social challenges."

"We recognize that the government alone cannot fight against illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty and many other challenges," he said.

"The spirit of volunteerism is at the heart of all of



Carol Bellamy, UNICEF's executive director, spoke at a conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Sunday, and praised volunteers, citing their critical role in helping governments and aid agencies.

our efforts to build a better future and a better future for every child," Bellamy said.

Bellamy is scheduled to hold talks with Aziz on Monday, then she plans to travel to the eastern city of Lahore to meet with senior government officials on UNICEF-assisted projects in Punjab province.

UNICEF is assisting with projects in child education, health care and the protection of women's and children's rights in Pakistan, an impoverished country of about 150 million people.

5.4 magnitude quake hits western Germany

BERLIN — An earthquake struck western Germany near the French border early Sunday, but there were no reports of major damage or injuries, officials said.

The magnitude 5.4 quake, with an epicenter near the German town of Waldkirch, occurred about 2:52 a.m., Germany's geological center in Freiburg said. France's national seismicological center had earlier reported that the quake had a 4.9 magnitude.

German and French authorities said hundreds of people telephoned seeking information about the tremor, but there were no reports of major damage or injuries. The earthquake could be felt in a 150-mile radius, seismologist Wolfgang Bruestle said. He said the epicenter was lucky to escape much damage.

"That is really amazing for this strength," Bruestle said. A magnitude 4 tremor can shake houses and buildings, while an earthquake registering magnitude 5 can cause more extensive damage if centered in a residential area.

The last earthquake of similar magnitude was in France in February 2003, Bruestle said. There were no injuries in that quake.

Mine explosion kills 23 in Kazakhstan

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — Twenty-three people died and three others were injured Sunday on an explosion at a coal mine in the Karaganda region, officials said. Eighty-seven miners were working at the mine in the town of Shakhinsk about 120 miles south of the capital, Astana, when the blast occurred at 3:08 a.m., said regional administration spokesman Zhanibek Sadykanov.

Two injured miners were hospitalized and a third was released after treatment, he said.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev sent a letter of condolence to the families of the victims and ordered the government to pay them compensation, as well as carry out a full investigation, officials said.

Sadykanov said a special commission was investigating the cause of the blast.

Rescue operations were complete and work had started on restoring the mine, which is owned by Kazakhstan's TSPAT-Karmet metal giant, said Nakiy Kapbasov, deputy regional emergencies agency chief.

At least eight people have died in mining accidents in the central industrial Karaganda region this year.

From wire reports

French consider color-blind résumés

BY ELAINE GANLEY

The Associated Press

PARIS — What's in a name? A job, or at least a foot in the door, says Fatima Talbi.

Fed up with job rejections, she briefly took a new name, one that "sounds French," to test her theory that bosses give foreign-sounding names such as hers the brush-off. To her dismay, she was right.

Identifying herself as Catherine Lecomte on her résumé, Talbi — who is French — quickly got an interview after two rejections for the same job using her real name.

"I was satisfied that I could prove this, but I was disappointed to have reached that point, changing my name to get there," said 33-year-old Talbi. "It's pitiful."

In the land where "liberty, equality and fraternity" is engraved on coins, Talbi's plight is all too familiar. The discrimination does not stop at jobs. French of Arab, African or Asian backgrounds who want to rent housing or even go nightclubbing often get doors slammed in their face.

To beat the bias, some in France are pushing for a unique response, perhaps untried anywhere else in the world: Anonymous résumés.

A proposal being studied by lawmakers would require companies with more than 250 employees to accept only résumés without candidates' names, sex, age, address or photograph to give all an equal chance of getting that critical first interview.

Prospects that the proposal will be legislated in parliament dimmed last week when a leading lawmaker from President Jacques Chirac's governing party, Bernard Accoyer, voiced his opposition.

But even if parliament doesn't act, France's national employment agency, known as ANPE, is launching a program at the end of January to test anonymous résumés in the Rhone-Alpes region of southeast France. AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, plans to do the same.

That authorities are going to such lengths highlights failures of France's much-vaunted model of integration, which aims to assimilate immigrants by instilling in them the cultural values of their adopted country — at the expense of ethnic ways.

Many of those facing discrimination, like Talbi, descendants of immigrants from France's former colonies in Muslim North Africa.

Their parents crossed the Mediterranean in the 1950s to provide the manual labor the French refused to do.

France for years assumed this immigration was temporary and its policies failed to keep up with the curve. There are no firm fig-



Fatima Talbi, a French citizen with a foreign-sounding name, sits next to her curriculum vitae, or résumé, right, and the same one but a fake name and no picture on it in Paris. French lawmakers are studying a proposal to require companies with more than 250 employees to accept only anonymous CVs, without name, sex, age address or photograph.

ures on the total number of immigrants and their descendants because French law forbids identifying people by their ethnic origin. But the Muslim population is estimated at 5 million, the biggest in Western Europe.

New arrivals lived in shantytowns, later upgraded to housing projects that ring major cities. Today fallen into disrepair, they are often infested with gangs and crime and breed isolation and despair.

School became the great leveler, the instrument by which children of immigrants were meant to be fashioned into the national mold. Even today, the notion that schools can resolve deeply rooted cultural issues thrives. This year, France began banning Muslim head scarves and other religious symbols from the classroom.

"Schools made little French out of little immigrants. The problem is that these French, when it's time to find a job, end up [being treated like] their fathers," said sociologist Philippe Beaille.

Today, it is four to five times more difficult for people from immigrant backgrounds to find work than for those of French origin, said Pascal Othegy, deputy prefect of the Rhone-Alpes region, in charge of the ANPE project.

"We have a problem," Othegy said.

Some cold realities are behind the push for anonymous curriculum vitae.

Within 10 years, some 40 percent of France's active population will be retiring, so companies need to be encouraged to hire more people of foreign origins, he said.

"We're going to try to use this economic force to fight discrimination," Othegy said in a telephone interview. "It's an opportunity. The price of nonintegration is big."

Rubens' paintings wow Austrian museum visitors

BY SUSANNA LOOF

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Visitors to Vienna's museums can't seem to get enough of Peter Paul Rubens' voluptuous art.

Three Vienna museums on Sunday opened a joint exhibit featuring more than 100 Rubens paintings. The opening coincided with the very last day of a three-month Rubens retrospective at the prestigious Albertina museum that displayed more than 160 pieces, including works on loan from places such as the Louvre and Windsor Castle.

The Albertina show was a re-sounding success, with about 230,000 visitors coming to see the drawings, oil sketches and paintings, spokesman Stefan Musil said. The exhibit was organized in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum in New York, which will show parts of it starting Jan. 15.

The new, three-museum exhibit, which ends Feb. 27, could also attract more than 200,000 visitors, said Wilfried Seipel, the director of the renowned art history Kunsthistorisches Museum, which is organizing the new ex-

hibit together with the Liechtenstein Museum and the Painting Gallery of Vienna's Academy of Fine Arts.

"There's still a demand. The visitors are streaming in this," Seipel said, standing contentedly in the middle of a crowd ogling the opulent paintings. "The Albertina exhibit was a good preparation for this."

The joint exhibit came about because Vienna is home to several Rubens masterpieces, making the city one of the most important Rubens cities besides Antwerp, the Flemish master's hometown in Belgium, Seipel said. Several museums across the world have put on Rubens exhibits in 2004, which has been dubbed the Rubens Year.

Rubens has a popular appeal because of "his genius and his versatility," Seipel said. "Everyone who is interested in paintings can get something out of it," he added.

Masterpieces on display include the eight-painting "The Decius Mus Cycle" from 1616 and 1617 at the Liechtenstein Museum. Visitors to the Kunsthistorisches can admire large-scale altarpieces such as The Infonso

Altarpiece, while the Academy of Fine Art show focuses on oil sketches.

Visitors can choose to visit the three museums on different days, "but to view all in one day is a special experience," Seipel said.

The ticket price of visitors between the museums. The discount — buying admission tickets to the three museums separately would cost appeals to Mona Kotkata, a 29-year-old art history student.

"It's a great idea, especially because of the price," she said. "Vienna museums have gotten so expensive, unfortunately. Visiting a museum shouldn't be a luxury, it's something everyone should be able to do."

But isn't there a limit to how much Rubens one can digest in one day? Not so, said Kotkata, who planned to devote her entire Sunday to Rubens by visiting not only the three museums but also the Albertina show.

"I don't think you'll get an overload; instead, you'll get a more in-depth perception of his works," she said at the second stop of her Rubens tour. "He paints superbly. He conveys the Baroque feeling, the enjoyment of life."

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IN THE STATES

Kean says moment for intel reform bill may have passed

BY JAMES GORDON MEEK
New York Daily News

WASHINGTON — If President Bush fails to strong-arm stubborn House Republicans into passing an intelligence reform bill this week, other elements of his agenda will also be put in jeopardy, the head of the Sept. 11 commission warns.

"Congress becomes dysfunctional if the president and Congress can't get these big issues taken care of, and then we're all in trouble," said Thomas Kean, the Republican who led the Sept. 11 investigation.

Kean, a former governor of New Jersey, said Bush might never again have as much political might behind a major piece of legislation.

"It'll be a long time before there's another bill with the support of the Republican and Democratic leadership in both Houses and the support of 80 percent of the American people in the polls," Kean told the New York Daily News.

Congress reconvenes in a rare winter session Monday, but Kean warned he fears the moment to pass the bill could be lost.

Republican leaders have raised the possibility of returning next month before the next Congress is sworn in to vote on the intelligence bill if there is a break-through.

After winning reelection, Bush said he "earned [political] capital ... and I'm going to spend it" — championing reforms of the tax code and Social Security.

But those goals might be left in doubt if Bush can't chew off intelligence reform from his 2004 to-do list.

"I believe it will pass, but there's a chance it won't. It's not a slam dunk," Kean said with a heavy sigh.

Both he and Lee Hamilton, the Democrat who is vice chairman of the Sept. 11 panel, have expressed frustration over the blocking maneuvers by two House GOP leaders.

Kean's allies on Capitol Hill be-

lieve the Sept. 11 bill has fallen victim to a Republican-on-Republican political feud. It involves payback by House conservatives to Senate Republicans and the White House for rolling them on unrelated issues, he said.

"They decided to put their feet in cement and picked out the bill to do it, almost to teach the President a lesson," Kean said. "That's what I'm told."

Kean admitted that the ups and downs of overhauling the entire intelligence establishment are tough to fathom.

"A lot of this has been confusing since the day the President called and asked me to do this," Kean said half-jokingly.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., has opposed giving the bill a vote by claiming that Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Richard Myers fears losing control over combat support spy satellites. But Myers said last week his concern about the bill had to do with budget authorities and that "was taken care of."



Thomas Kean

Defying the House committee that oversees the Pentagon "is not easy to do if you're the Joint Chiefs chairman, and it takes a lot of gumption," Kean said, praising Myers.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, is pushing to deny illegal aliens driver's licenses — but aides admit he was willing to drop the issue at Bush's request in an earlier compromise agreement.

If the bill fails, Kean said, "We'll put something together next year, but it'll probably be six to nine months and won't be anywhere near as complete as this is."

Bin Laden trail gone cold, says Musharraf

BY ROBIN WIKER
AND PETER BAKER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said Saturday that the search for Osama bin Laden has gone completely cold, with no recent intelligence indicating where he and his top lieutenants are hiding.

More than three years after al-Qaida's attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon killed almost 3,000 people, Musharraf insisted that Pakistani forces are still aggressively pursuing the world's most notorious terrorist. But he acknowledged that recent security force operations and interrogations have been able to determine only one fact: that bin Laden is still alive.

"He is alive but more than that, where he is, no, it'll be just a guess and it won't have much value," Musharraf said in an interview with Washington Post editors and reporters. Pressed on whether the trail had gone cold, he said, "Yes, if you mean we don't know, from that point of view, we don't know where he is."

The United States shares major responsibility, Musharraf suggested, because the U.S.-led coalition does not have enough troops in Afghanistan, which has left "voids." The United States and its allies need to expedite training and expansion of the new Afghan army as the only viable alternative, he said.

Challenges in Afghanistan would be better dealt with "if the Afghan national army is raised faster, in more strength, so that they can reach out to fill these voids that I am talking about, where U.S. forces or coalition forces are not there," he said.

The hunt for al-Qaida is also foundering because of the diffuse array of groups under its umbrella. Pakistani forces are usually not even certain who or what factions they are pursuing in the treacherous border regions along its border with Afghanistan, Musharraf said, speaking shortly after a meeting with President Bush.

"Now, when we operate in many areas, we don't know who we are operating against and suddenly we find out that, OK, we've got [or] we've killed so-and-so," Musharraf said. Sometimes Pakistani forces just "bump into them," he added.

TICKETS OF THE CRESCENT MOON



THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS AFTER, H. JOHN PICKET

With Tactics of the Crescent Moon, U.S. forces could turn the tide in Iraq. From the author of *The Last Hundred Years*, it contains a detailed description of militant Muslim small-unit maneuvers and how to counter them. Maj. Gen. Ray L. "E-Toot" Smith USMC (Ret.) writes the foreword. Send \$14.95 plus \$4.00 ship to Posterity Press, P.O. Box 5360, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; use your credit card 1-800-505-4334 or at posteritypress.org. P's get thru PMG.

Explosives search

LOS ANGELES — Authorities searched an Air France airliner at Los Angeles International Airport early Saturday for explosives that disappeared during a French police training exercise at an airport outside Paris, officials said.

No explosives were found on Flight 70, which arrived late Friday after a flight from Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Three other airliners that had left Charles de Gaulle were searched at New York City's John F. Kennedy International, said Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman Nora Brewer.

French military police had been using the explosive material to train dogs to detect bombs, but they lost track of a piece of luggage containing an unspecified type and amount of explosive, authorities said.

The 362 passengers and crew members on Flight 70 were evacuated and screened.

From wire reports

La. GOP, Dems trade congressional seats

BY ADAM NOSSITER

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Republicans picked up a congressional seat in southern Louisiana on Saturday, but gave another right back to Democrats in a second, much closer runoff election that was also in Cajun country.

A longtime Democratic bastion in Louisiana's 7th District went to Republican Charles Boustany, a retired heart surgeon. With 94 percent of the precincts reporting, Boustany had 72,223 votes or 55 percent, and Democratic state Sen. Willie Landry Mount had 58,968 or 45 percent.

Farther south, Billy Tauzin III narrowly lost a race to succeed his retiring father, a Republican House of Representatives powerhouse. In the 3rd District, with 100 percent of precincts reporting, Democrat Charles Melancon

had 57,609 votes, and Tauzin trailed him by barely 500 votes, with 57,092.

Louisiana has no law requiring an automatic recount of a close election. All absentee votes were included, and no clerks reported provisional ballots.

Tauzin said he was waiting for the voting machines to be opened Tuesday, but didn't anticipate a challenge.

In his victory speech, Melancon said the close vote was a call for unity. In an echo of the campaign he added: "Young Billy Tauzin, at some point in time, he's going to make a wonderful public servant."

The last bits of unfinished business from the 2004 congressional election season, both races were marked by heavy negative campaigning and light voter interest. The runoffs were necessary because none of the candidates won a 50 percent majority.

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OPINION

Panel sees little of value in United Nations

New York Daily News

Well, Kofi Annan at least can thank his lucky stars that the United Nations' blue-ribbon reform panel did not specifically recommend that sons of sitting secretaries-general refrain from stuffing their pockets with shady oil moneys. But that's all the good news he'll find in a report that relentlessly paints Annan's United Nations as a bloated slug of a do-nothing organization that has utterly failed to be even semi-competent in any of its global missions: "The biggest source of inefficiency in our collective security institutions has simply been an unwillingness to get serious about preventing deadly violence."

"Too often, the United Nations and its member states have discriminated in responding to threats to international security."

"We have been struck once again by the glacial speed at which our institutions have responded to massive human rights violations in Darfur, Sudan."

"The nuclear nonproliferation regime is now at risk because of lack of compliance with existing commitments."

"One of the reasons why states may want

to bypass the Security Council is a lack of confidence in the quality and objectivity of its decision-making. The Council's decisions have often been less than consistent, less than persuasive and less than fully responsive to very real state and human security needs ... very often acting too late, too hesitantly or not at all."

"There is little or no expertise for tackling many of the new or emerging threats." In short, says Annan's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, the United Nations is not even dysfunctional so much as it is altogether nonfunctional. Or, to put it another way, useless.

Which comes as no large surprise, but it's one more thing Annan will have to address sooner or later, even as cries for his resignation grow more insistent amid cascades of revelations that have cast such unflattering light upon his various cronies and kin.

It's just one thing after another these days in KofiLand, what with the disclosure that Saddam Hussein ripped off the United Nations' oil-for-food program for as much as \$2.1 billion and vowed with beating to own up to the fact that young Kofi Annan was paid \$150,000 or so by a contractor hired by the United Nations to



help monitor the program.

By "sooner or later," of course, we do mean "later." Speaking of glacial speed,

Annan's United Nations is not required to respond to any of the panel's harsh evaluations until September.

Report shows how leaders can make world safer

BY KOFI ANNAN

Over the last 10 years or so, the world has come much closer to agreeing on what is needed to achieve development and break the grip of extreme poverty. Three key international meetings

— the U.N. Millennium Summit in 2000 and the U.N. conferences in Monterrey, Mexico, and Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 — have led to a remarkable degree of consensus on how to grow economies, alleviate poverty and protect the environment.

Whether we will achieve the eight "millennium development goals" we set for ourselves by the target date of 2015 is still uncertain, but at least we have agreement on what needs to be done.

Regrettably, we are still some way from a similar consensus on how to make the world more secure. There, things have, if anything, gotten worse in the last few years. A moment of global solidarity against terrorism in 2001 was quickly replaced by acrimonious arguments over the war in Iraq, which turned out to be symptomatic of deeper divisions on fundamental questions.

How can we best protect ourselves against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction? When is the use of force permissible — and who should decide? Is "preventive war" sometimes justified, or is it simply aggression under another name? And, in a world that has become "unipolar," what role should the United Nations play?

Those new debates came on top of earlier ones that arose in the 1990s. Is state sovereignty an absolute principle, or does the international community have a responsibility to prevent or resolve conflicts within states — especially when they involve genocide or comparable atrocities? A year ago, hoping to find answers to such questions, I appointed a panel of 16 distinguished men and women from all parts of the world and from different fields of expertise — politi-

cal, military, diplomatic, economic, social. I asked them to assess the threats facing humanity today and recommend how we need to change, in both our policies and our institutions, to meet those threats.

Thursday, they delivered their report, "A More Secure World — Our Shared Responsibility," with 101 recommendations for forging a common response to common threats. The report reaffirms the right of states to defend themselves, including pre-emptively when an attack is imminent, and says that in "nightmare scenarios" — for instance, those combining terrorists and weapons of mass destruction — the U.N. Security Council may have to act earlier, more proactively and more decisively than in the past. And it offers guidelines to help the Security Council decide when to authorize the use of force — both in dealing with external threats and in exercising its responsibility to protect people from mass atrocities committed within the borders of a sovereign state.

No less useful is the panel's achievement in reaching a consensus on a definition of terrorism — something that U.N. members have been unable to do over the years. It may not seem like a difficult term to define, but we were stymied. Some argue that any definition must include the use of armed force against civilians by states, as

well as by private groups, and some — especially Arab and Muslim states — insisted that the definition must not override the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation.

But the panel members (including several eminent Muslim representatives) point out that international law as it stands is already clear in condemning large-scale use of force against civilians by states, and they agree "there is nothing in the fact of occupation that justifies the targeting and killing of civilians."

If governments follow their lead — as I hope they will — it will be much easier for the United Nations to develop a comprehensive counterterrorism strategy and for me to take the lead in promoting such a strategy, as the report asks me to do.

The report also contains a welter of practical proposals to prevent nuclear proliferation, improve biosecurity and make the United Nations itself more effective, notably in prevention and peace-building.

Among the most significant changes recommended is the expansion of the Security Council from 15 to 24 members — either by adding six new permanent members, without veto power, or by creating a new category of four-year, renewable seats, which would be regionally distributed.

I believe either formula would strength-

en the council's legitimacy and authority in the eyes of the world by bringing its membership closer to the realities of the 21st century — as opposed to those of 1945, when the U.N. Charter was drafted.

Above all, the report clearly spells out the interconnectedness of our age, in which the destinies of peoples and the threats they face are interwoven. Not only is a threat against one nation a threat against all, but failure to deal with one threat can undermine our defense against all the others. A major terrorist attack in the heart of the industrial world can devastate the world economy, plunging millions of people back into extreme poverty, the collapse of a state in the poorest part of the world can punch a gaping hole in our common defense against terrorism and epidemic disease.

Few people could read this report and doubt that making this world more secure is a shared responsibility, as well as a shared interest.

It tells us how to do this and why we must act now. It puts the ball firmly in the court of the world's political leaders. It is for them to negotiate the details, but I strongly urge them to act on the main thrust of the recommendations.

Kofi Annan is secretary-general of the United Nations. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Cyberterrorism could cripple U.S. economy, ex-CIA director warns

BY PAM EASTON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Cyberterrorism could be the most devastating weapon of mass destruction yet and could cripple the U.S. economy, former CIA Director Robert Gates said at a terrorism conference Saturday.

Gates, who became Texas A&M University's president in 2002 about a decade after he left the CIA, cited as an example the "love bug" virus that overwhelmed computer systems around the world in 2000.

"When a teenage hacker in the Philippines overnight can wreak \$10 billion in damage to the U.S. economy by implanting a virus, imagine what a sophisticated, well-funded effort to attack the computer base of our economy could accomplish," said Gates, addressing the two-day conference at Rice University.

Even before 2000, the United States seemed an easy cyberterrorism target, Gates said.

He said the CIA and National Security Agency conducted an exercise six years ago, assigning 50

computer specialists to see how hard it would be to shut down the nation's electric grid. It took only two days for the group to put itself in a position to do so, he said.

"All you have to do is look at what happened in the northeast when you had a tree fall on a line in rural Ohio," he said of a blackout that affected cities from Detroit to New York last year.

"What I am talking about is bringing the U.S. economy to its knees."

The Internet is a prime target because the high-tech economy of the West can be seen as a threat in less-developed areas of the world, he said.

"We welcome rapid, even revolutionary change," he said. "For them, it is profoundly disturbing and even a desperate danger to their way of life."

Gates compared the war on terrorism to the Cold War and warned there is a long battle ahead.

"Terrorism is a global challenge that will take many forms and many years to defeat or contain," he said. "I think we can be certain that terrorists will hit America again."



Dr. Arjun Kalyanpur discusses the scan of a patient with an American doctor in Connecticut on a toll-free line at the premises of Technology Solutions in Bangalore, India. Spurred by a shortage of U.S. radiologists and an exploding demand for more sophisticated scans to diagnose scores of ailments, doctors at dozens of American hospitals are finding that offshore outsourcing works even in medicine.

Shortage of radiologists leads to overseas twist

Night CTs, MRIs get first look by outsourced doctors

BY LINDSEY TANNER

The Associated Press

When a patient in Altoona, Pa., needs an emergency brain scan in the middle of the night, a doctor in Bangalore, India, is asked to interpret the results.

Spurred by a shortage of U.S. radiologists and an exploding demand for more sophisticated scans to diagnose scores of ailments, doctors at Altoona Hospital and dozens of other American hospitals are finding that offshore outsourcing works even in medicine.

Over the past few years, the number of nighttime emergency cases was swamping Altoona's seven radiologists.

"All of a sudden somebody was waking up all night to cover all this extra work," said radiologist Dr. Richard Wertz. And while that doctor was groggy, "we didn't have the luxury of that guy taking the next day off."

Using radiologists halfway around the world where it's daytime "solves that problem for us," Wertz said.

It's part of the growing telemedicine trend, with technology enabling the speedy transfer of medical data over the Internet to virtually anywhere there's a compatible computer. That means radiologists in Australia, India, Israel and Lebanon are reading scans on U.S. patients.

Despite fears from some doctors, advocates insist offshore radiology is nothing like the nightmarish vision of seedy sweatshops stealing U.S. jobs and replacing them with unqualified cheap labor. Most of the doctors are U.S.-trained and licensed — although there is at least one ex-

periment using radiologists without U.S. training.

More typical is the Altoona scenario, which involves doctors from Dr. Arjun Kalyanpur. A U.S.-licensed and credentialed radiologist, he got his postgraduate training at Yale University and runs a respected two-man service from Bangalore, India, called Teleradiology Solutions.

Images of U.S. patients' radiology scans are sent over the Internet to the Bangalore office. Radiologists there review the image, offer a preliminary diagnosis and fax back a written report — usually within about 30 minutes, Kalyanpur said.

"When Kalyanpur takes over, we all can get some sleep and really won't be tired the next day," Wertz said. Altoona radiologists now read overnight scans when they arrive in the morning and make the final diagnosis.

Facing the same phenomenon, radiologists at Chicago's Swedish Covenant Hospital hired an Australia-based company called International Teleradiology Corp. two years ago, said Dr. Bruce Silver, one of six staff radiologists. Now, U.S.-trained and licensed radiologists in Australia, Lebanon and Israel read overnight scans from Swedish Covenant.

Some call this practice "night-hawking," and one of the largest domestic companies offering such services is NightHawk Radiology, based in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The company says more than 50 U.S. hospitals now rely on its 35 radiologists — U.S.-born and trained — in Australia and Switzerland.

In recent years, demand has far exceeded the supply of U.S. ra-

diologists. A trade journal reported earlier this year that there has been an average of four vacancies per radiology department at American academic centers in the past two years.

The use of teleradiology, including outsourcing, has improved on-call productivity and may have helped ease the shortage, radiology experts say. But worries remain.

In May, an American College of Radiology task force warned was "very concerned about the implications of overseas radiology and its potential effect on patient care in the United States."

The ACR said doctors who interpret the scanned images should meet or exceed the standards for U.S. physicians.

Foreign radiologists should have liability insurance and a license to practice in the state they serve, as well as staff privileges at hospitals where scans are performed, the task force said.

Dr. Ari Van Moore Jr., a Charlotte radiologist who chaired the task force, said offshore teleradiology is acceptable if the ACR guidelines are followed but ensuring quality is difficult "when somebody's 8,000 miles away."

Dr. David Turner, chairman of diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, believes outsourcing fears are unfounded. With concern about medical errors and malpractice lawsuits, no U.S. hospital would risk hiring untrained, unskilled doctors, he said.

"The bottom line is this is not outsourcing in the sense that automobile jobs are going to Mexico and call center jobs are going to India," Turner said. "It's something on a different level."

NASCAR goes Navy



TIM PARKS/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

2004 NASCAR Nextel Cup Champion Kurt Busch stands on the flight deck of the USS Intrepid on Friday at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum at Pier 86 in New York City. Busch was in New York City for the NASCAR Nextel Cup Banquet held Friday night in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria, where he was presented a check for \$5.3 million.

Officials downplay meth's aphrodisiac effect

While drug initially boosts performance, it eventually destroys sex drive

BY BILL POOVEY
The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — At a recent task force meeting on the epidemic of methamphetamine use in Appalachia, Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen wined when a federal prosecutor described the illegal drug as an aphrodisiac. Doctors and government officials don't like to talk much about it, but there is an obvious reason people get hooked on methamphetamine: sex. Meth eventually destroys the sex drive, but for a short while it can boost sexual appetite and performance more powerfully than drugs such as cocaine, doctors say. "Who wouldn't want to use it? You lose weight and you have great sex," Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Layman said sarcastically

at the meeting of the Tennessee task force.

For obvious reasons, government officials want to focus on the misery meth causes.

Use of the addictive drug can cause brain damage, violent behavior and hallucinations, and exposure to the potentially explosive vapors during the manufacture of meth can cause respiratory problems, headaches and nausea. In many gay clubs in New York City and elsewhere, meth is often injected, putting users and their partners at risk for HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted diseases.

As for why the drug has such a hold on people, Dr. Mary Holley, an obstetrician who runs a Mothers Against Methamphetamine ministry in Albertville, Ala., and has interviewed men and women

"Who wouldn't want to use it?"

You lose weight and you have great sex."

Paul Layman
Assistant U.S. attorney speaking sarcastically about methamphetamine

addicted to meth, said sex is the

No. 1 reason people use it.

"The effect of an IV hit of methamphetamine is the equivalent of 10 orgasms all on top of each other lasting for 30 minutes to an

hour, with a feeling of arousal that lasts for another day and a half," she said.

The effect doesn't last long.

"After you have been using it about six months or so you can't have sex unless you are high," Holley said. "After you have been using it a little bit longer you can't have sex even when you're high. Nothing happens. It doesn't work."

Dr. John Sandridge, an addiction specialist with the Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services in Chattanooga, said meth and other stimulants initially "rev up the dopamine nervous system in the brain. They rev it up and burn it out."

A National Institute on Drug Abuse survey on drug use and health in 2002 found that 12.4 million Americans at least 12 years old — or about 5 percent of the

population — had tried meth at least once in their lifetimes. In a measure of how serious the problem is in Appalachia, a total of 1,083 clandestine methamphetamine labs were cleaned up in Tennessee in 2003 — more than in any other state.

A meth task force appointed by Bredesen is recommending tougher penalties and expanded treatment for addicts.

Meth's reputation as a sex drug is not unique.

"All substance abuse is frequently marketed as enhancing sex life or making you more attractive or a better social companion," said John Walters, the drug czar for President Bush. But he added that buying meth as an aphrodisiac is "buying under false pretenses."

"Hair falls out. Teeth fall out," Walters said. "That's not sexy."

Scientists heal dogs with spinal injuries

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scraps Howard News Service

Researchers have successfully tested injections of a liquid polymer to heal spinal injuries in dogs in a new experiment that also offers hope for preventing human paralysis.

The liquid, called polyethylene glycol (PEG), if administered within 72 hours of serious spinal injury, was able to prevent three out of four dogs in a test group from suffering permanent spinal damage. Even when the spine was damaged to the point of paralysis, the PEG solution prevented nerve cells from rupturing irreversibly, allowing them to heal themselves.

"Nearly 75 percent of the dogs we treated with PEG were able to resume a normal life," said Richard Borgens, director of the center for Paralysis Research at Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine in West Lafayette, Ind., which developed the treatment.

"Some healed so well that they could go on as though nothing had happened."

While the polymer has been safely ingested and injected in humans as a component of other medicines, and Borgens thinks it shows great promise as a human therapy, he cautions. "This is very promising research, but it won't be available in your hospital for some time."

The research is described in the December issue of the *Journal of Neurotrauma*, out Friday.

When nerve cells suffer trauma, their membranes weaken and rupture.

Chemical Band-Aid for cells

A project led by a Purdue University researcher repaired nerve fibers in canines with damaged spinal cords. Dogs injected with polyethylene glycol (PEG) within 72 hours of their injury recovered sensory and motor functions within weeks.

Damaged membrane deteriorates causing nerve to die; by-products from dead cells kill surrounding cells

Nerve fiber

PEG

PEG injected anywhere in the body travels to the nerve damage and seals the holes allowing them to heal, unaffected by body fluids or other materials

SOURCE: Purdue University

AP

Even when the cells survive, they lose their ability to produce and carry nerve impulses along the membranes from one cell to the next.

"Worse yet, chemicals seeping out of the dying spinal cord cells send a 'suicide signal' to other nearby cells, causing a chain reaction that kills off more cells than the initial injury did," Borgens said. "Until now, the end result has been irreparable damage to the spinal cord, causing partial or complete paralysis."

PEG is able to stop this cascade of injury by repairing initial membrane damage, or by fusing two damaged cells together into a larger functional nerve cell. Significantly, the polymer is attracted only to damaged nerve cells and tissue when it's injected into the blood stream. It doesn't move into undamaged regions nearby.

In the new study, 19 paraplegic dogs between 2 and 8 years of age were treated with a PEG injection within 72 hours of injury in addition to getting standard veterinary therapy for spinal injury.

If holes in nerve cells are sealed quickly, the cell is saved

PEG

Standard treatment includes injection of steroids, surgical removal of any potentially damaging bone chips from the spinal area and physical rehabilitation, such as swimming. The group of 19 dogs was compared with a second group of dogs that had gotten only the standard treatment.

"More than half the dogs [in the PEG group] in this study were standing or walking within two weeks of treatment," Borgens said.

"In most cases, you could no longer positive signs within three to five days. These results are unprecedented in paralysis research."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 11,000 Americans sustain disabling spinal cord injuries each year, mainly from car crashes and sports mishaps, and more than half of them are younger than 30.

Researchers still are not certain how the polymer works to heal cells, but think it has to do with removing the excess water that floods the cell after it's been damaged.

S.C. teen: Antidepressants made him kill grandparents

BY JEFFREY COLLINS

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Joe Pittman's hands shook as he read his son's confession to a roomful of strangers during a Food and Drug Administration hearing in Washington.

"I took everything out on my grandparents, who I loved so very much," wrote Christopher Pittman. "When I was lying in my bed at night, I couldn't sleep because my voice in my head kept echoing through my mind, telling me to kill them."

Authorities say three years ago,

Christopher, then 12, shot his grandparents as they slept in their rural home because they had scolded him for fighting on the school bus. "I took everything out on my grandparents, who I loved so very much," wrote Christopher Pittman. "When I was lying in my bed at night, I couldn't sleep because my voice in my head kept echoing through my mind, telling me to kill them."

But prosecutors and police say Christopher's actions during and after the November 2001 slayings show he clearly knew what he was doing was wrong.

The boy waited until his grandparents were sleeping and took a pump-action shotgun from a gun cabinet. He crept into the couple's dark bedroom, first shooting 66-year-old Joe Frank Pittman in the chest, then his 69-year-old wife, the back of 62-year-old Joy Pittman's head.

Christopher then set the house

on fire and drove off in the family car. When he got stuck on a dirt road 20 miles away, he told hunters he was kidnapped by a man who killed his grandparents, set the fire, drove him into the woods and ran away.

Christopher was living with his father's parents in hopes of turning his life around.

A month before the slayings, Christopher was hospitalized in Florida, where his father lives, after he threatened to kill himself. The boy was prescribed the anti-depressant Paxil, but another doctor soon put him on Zoloft instead.

Pittman sent the boy to live with his grandparents in Chester County, an rural area between Columbia and Charlotte, N.C.

Christopher, who turns 16 in April, is being prosecuted as an adult and faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted at his trial, set to start next month. His lawyers argue that his case should be moved to family court, where a conviction, he could only be kept in custody until he turns 21.

Karen Menzies, one of Christopher's lawyers and an attorney specializing in lawsuits against anti-depressant makers, said medical research is available to support the Zoloft defense.

In the three years since the murders, the FDA has become increasingly wary of doctors prescribing Zoloft and other antidepressants for children.

In October, the agency ordered the drugs to carry "black box" warnings — the government's strongest warning short of a ban — about increasing the risk of suicidal behavior in children.

On the other side is Pfizer Inc., the maker of Zoloft, which has aided the prosecution, according to Solicitor John Justice.

The company has vigorously fought cases claiming antidepressants cause violent or suicidal behavior.



Pittman

Pizza delivery scandal

TX FORT WORTH — A Fort Worth police officer has resigned three months after being accused of offering a pizza delivery driver a break on a traffic ticket in exchange for pizzas.

Officer David Towson, who had been on the force five years, resigned in October after administrators recommended an indefinite suspension, which is the equivalent of being fired, police Lt. Abdul Pridgen said.

Towson, who was assigned to the traffic division, was placed on restricted duty in July after a pizza driver told internal affairs investigators that Towson offered to not write her a ticket if she would take pizzas to a certain address, Pridgen said.

Subway derailment

NY NEW YORK — An F train derailed near 34th Street and Sixth Avenue near Penn Station. No injuries were reported, but 57 passengers were evacuated from the train, which jumped the track.

Transit workers had been changing a rail, but had not locked it in place, causing the fourth car of the northbound train to derail about 300 feet south of 34th Street.

Fire officials reported a small fire resulted from the derailling, which was soon brought under control.

Hospital didn't break law

IL SPRINGFIELD — The state Supreme Court ruled that a hospital did not break the law by taking a patient off life support despite the wishes of his wife, who wanted his children to have the chance to say goodbye to him first.

The wife had asked doctors to not immediately withdraw life support after they determined Joseph Collins would not live long following a fall in April 1999. The doctors didn't wait and Collins died minutes before his children arrived at the hospital.

The family sued, arguing that the hospital had a duty to allow Andrea Collins to make health care decisions after doctors determined her husband couldn't make them himself, as required by state law.

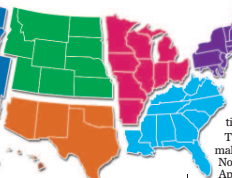
But the court ruled that because doctors didn't include their determination in the patient's medical record, the hospital had no legal obligation to name a health care surrogate.

Man released from jail

NC CHARLOTTE — A man who was accused of molesting more than a dozen children in North Carolina has been set free after 14 years behind bars because the victims recanted.

James Bernard Parker went as he walked out of a Brooklyn, N.Y., courthouse and embraced a sister he hadn't seen in 15 years. He had been given three life terms plus 60 years in prison for charges of molesting four children.

When Parker was charged in 1990, authorities said at least 19 children had been attacked in Monroe, where he lived. Police found



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

no physical evidence, even though children told stories of being tied to trees and fed poisoned ice cream. They also gave a wide range of descriptions of their attacker.

After Parker was convicted in 1991, he wrote letters to several news organizations and legal groups maintaining his innocence and asking for help.

The Charlotte Observer ran stories in 2002 in which 15 reported victims and witnesses said the crimes never happened or that Parker wasn't the attacker. The only three boys who testified against Parker have since signed affidavits saying Parker didn't commit the crimes.

Lincoln artifacts sell big

CA LOS ANGELES — A unique portrait of Abraham Lincoln sold for a record \$85,000 and a copy of Robert E. Lee's farewell address to his troops went for \$70,000 at an auction of manuscripts and other historical items.

The buyers at the Bonhams & Butterfields auction were private and their identities were not disclosed.

The 16-by-19-inch Lincoln portrait, taken by Alexander Gardner on Aug. 9, 1863, is the only one known that shows the former presi-

dent sitting in a chair with his head posed on his hand. In most photographs, his hands are crossed or placed stiffly on the chair arms, said Catherine Williamson, director of books and manuscripts for the auction house.

The two-page letter is formally known as General Order No. 9 and was composed on April 10, 1865, a day after Lee signed the formal surrender of Confederate troops. It is one of the most collectible documents for Civil War buffs, Williamson said.

Teens charged with murder

AK BARROW — Two high school seniors charged with killing a cabdriver during a robbery got away with about \$100, court records show.

Now, Phillip Burnell and Dominick Lozano are in jail, held on \$250,000 bonds.

Each stands charged with second-degree murder and first-degree robbery in the shooting death of Sangkhon "Sam" Promdanglo, a former Buddhist monk driving a cab to raise money for his family in Thailand.

Barrow residents are shaking their heads in disbelief, said Ted Kiriputt, a friend of the slain driver.

"It's a no-win situation for Barrow," said Kiriputt, a 20-year resident of the city. "We lost one cabdriver. Now we lost two kids. I really feel bad about this because I know those families."

Mobile home explosion

OK TAHLEQUAH — A mobile home police believe might have been used as a methamphetamine lab burst into flames after an explosion, killing two adults and two children.

The parents of the children, ages 2 and 5, were at a casino at the time of the early morning fire, police said. The two men who died in the blaze were not related to the children.

Witnesses reported hearing what sounded like a gunshot or an exploding aerosol can and police said they found items at the scene that could have been used to make methamphetamine.

Nativity decoration stolen

MA QUINCY — The Patriot Ledger has offered a \$1,000 reward for information on the theft of a life-sized baby Jesus figure.

Police said the 20-inch statue was stolen from a Nativity scene at a cemetery adjacent to Quincy's city hall. Other figures in the display are screwed to the manger's base and the fiberglass Jesus was glued to its crib to deter vandals, the newspaper reported.

"It's our sincere hope that the reward will contribute to the speedy return of this symbol of the season's religious significance," Patriot Ledger Editor Chazy Dowdally said.

The \$30,000 display was paid for by Quincy's churches following a 2001 controversy over the city's placement of a Nativity display in front of city hall.



Christmas cheer

Port Charlotte, Fla., resident Julia Razka, 3, center, joins in the fun in front of a snow-making machine during the lighting of the town Christmas tree in downtown Punta Gorda, Fla.



Eating it up

Sonya Thomas, left, of Alexandria, Va., sneaks a peek at competitors Charles Hardy, center, and Ed Jarvis, right, during a meatball eating contest at Carmine's in Atlantic City.



Shooting the breeze

Bravo, a 7-month-old male cheetah cub, takes a break with CJ, a 5-month-old Anatolian shepherd puppy, at the Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati. The two just arrived at the zoo from Capetown, South Africa, along with another cheetah cub. Dogs are being used by shepherds in South Africa to help protect their herds from predators.



One last mow

Ron Svoboda uses his lawn mower to collect the last fall leaves during the first snowstorm of the season in Bellevue, Neb.



Graduation celebration
ceremony in Bakersfield, Calif.

Leah Kosareff, a biology major, gets her family's attention as she takes part in the first Cal State Bakersfield winter commencement



Story time
Kiara, 5, left, and Jakiea, 5, right, laugh as they listen to Ann Romney, wife of Massachusetts' governor, not pictured, read a book at Higginson Elementary School in Boston. Gubernatorial spouses from around the nation volunteer as "Ambassadors of Reading" to lead their respective states in reading celebrations.



Snag in moving plans

A house being moved is shown stuck on Fair Avenue in Marquette Township, Mich.

Video game prison ban

MO JEFFERSON CITY — Prison officials are no longer allowing Missouri's most violent criminals to have access to video games with titles such as "Hitman: Contracts."

Officials pulled 35 of more than 80 Sony PlayStation 2 games from the recreation center at the state's new maximum-security facility after being told they simulate murder, carjackings and the killing of police officers.

The games, paid for with profits from purchases at the prison camp, included some of the most violent on the market, including "Hitman: Contracts."

Neglect alleged in death

FL BOCA RATON — A 4-month-old baby died while his parents were on a three-day crack cocaine binge that began after Thanksgiving dinner, police said.

The cause of death was not immediately clear. Sonia Thomas, 39, and Neal Anthony Bryan, 46, have been charged with child neglect.

More charges could be filed after autopsy results are available, police spokesman Jeff Kelly said.

Thomas said she could not remember when she had last fed the baby because "she was messed up on crack" and tired, the report said. It said the couple admitted smoking about \$500 worth of crack cocaine over three days.

Thomas was being held without bail. Bryan was held on \$10,000 bail.

Teacher concealed DWI

NH NASHUA — A school driving instructor convinced his co-workers to handle his on-road duties while his license remained temporarily suspended for driving while intoxicated, the school superintendent said.

Arthur Desmeules, 66, of the Nashua school district, concealed his 2003 DWI conviction, claiming his eyes were giving him trouble. Superintendent Joe Giuliano told The Union Leader in a story published.

Giuliano said he discovered the conviction "when a reporter brought him a copy of the complaint, which was on file in Manchester District Court. Desmeules lives in Manchester. Giuliano said he told Desmeules he would be fired, and he made it official in a letter to him.

Rape charges dropped

MN EMIDJI — Citing new information, a prosecutor said he will drop charges against three male Bemidji State University seniors — including a former star hockey player — who were accused of raping an 18-year-old female student while an off-duty sheriff's deputy recorded the scene on a cell phone camera.

"Facts which were unknown at the time of charging... significantly impact the ability for the state to prove criminal charges beyond a reasonable doubt," assistant Anoka County Attorney Paul Young, a special prosecutor in the case, said in a written statement.

The prosecutor also announced that charges won't be brought against Beltrami County deputy Jeffrey Andersen, 25.

Four wolves killed

AK ANCHORAGE — Private airplane pilots have gunned down the first four wolves from the air in what could be the biggest government-sponsored killing of the animals since Alaska statehood.

State game managers believe the effort, targeting more than 500 of the predators for death, should make moose and caribou more plentiful in coming years. The goal is to give hunters a better chance to fill their freezers.

Opponents say the program is unnecessary. They believe that the predator-prey balance in most of the state is within normal levels and that moose and caribou herds don't need human intervention.

Industrial accident

TX SAN ANTONIO — A man was in critical condition after a 1-inch-thick hook went through his skull in an accident at a heavy equipment dealership.

Wayne Gail Creek, 62, remained conscious and even spoke with rescuers after a metal hook attached to a backhoe went completely through his head at Holt Caterpillar.

Rescuers spent two hours using special welding equipment to cut him free.

He was taken to University Hospital with part of the hook still in his head.

Reindeer travel restricted

TN KNOXVILLE — Kyle Wilson's son's reindeer have been reined in for the holidays.

Wilson normally makes good money in December transporting his reindeer to Christmas events around the Southeast. But this year, states seeking to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease — the deer-family equivalent of mad cow disease — have curtailed Dancer and Dasher's itinerary.

In Kentucky, for example, Wilson said officials stopped him at the state line and warned him there could be repercussions if he tried to attend a Santa-and-his-reindeer event there.

In recent years, chronic wasting disease has spread from a small region along the Colorado-Wyoming line to some Western and Midwestern states. The disease of the nervous system is contagious and incurable.

Some states are taking the threat seriously. In North Carolina, importing reindeer is banned and their travel is mostly restricted.

Bus driver fired

NY GRAND ISLAND — A Buffalo-area school bus driver lost her job because she talked to elementary school students about stem cell research, school officials said. Julianne Thompson said she was just sharing what she found to be interesting facts. School district officials said the conversation was inappropriate.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Colin Firth: An actor in demand



AP
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SIEGFRIED BRUNER
Stars and Stripes

'Bridget Jones' sequel faced tricky obstacle of one actor and two characters

Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES — For Colin Firth, playing Mr. Darcy is old hat. He first portrayed the snooty Brit in the '90s TV miniseries "Pride and Prejudice" and then as his modern reincarnation Mark Darcy in the "Bridget Jones" films.

He's not as familiar, however, with playing himself. In Helen Fielding's novel "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," the basis for the film of the same name, the irrepressible Bridget, now a "serious" journalist, interviews her screen idol Colin Firth — coincidentally, the same actor who plays her boyfriend in the film.

The scene never made it to the screen.

"It starts to get confusing. There was never any talk of Colin Firth appearing as a character," Firth tells Zap2it.com. In fact, during contract negotiations for 1999's "Bridget Jones's Diary," he was assured that — should the sequel film ever be made — there were "no plans to fea-

ture a character named Colin Firth."

Nevertheless, director Beeban Kidron still wrestled with the dilemma when she began developing "Edge of Reason." One possible solution that was immediately discarded involved casting another actor to play the Firth character.

"We decided [that] was perhaps a little postmodern for the middle of the movie," says Kidron with a laugh.

The filmmakers even discussed casting a different celebrity as the object of Bridget's fascination, but eventually the entire episode fell by the wayside.

"We talked about it and we talked about it and we could not find a solution that didn't break the fourth wall," explains Kidron. "We could find lots of solutions ... but every time it seemed like it stopped the emo-

tional flow of the movie."

Fans still hoping to see Bridget in a starstruck stupor over the actor won't be denied completely though.

"One day after filming, I asked Renee and Colin to stay behind."

"Renee stayed in character, while Colin changed into his own clothes and came back as himself," says Kidron. "[So] we did film Renee as Bridget Jones interviewing Colin, which I've recently cut together and will go on the DVD."

The scene isn't meant to be part of the film, rather it was conceived as a stand-alone bonus.

Adds Kidron, "It was written, if not exactly as the book. There are a few treats for you in it, but I don't think I should say more."

*The scene isn't meant
to be part of the film,
rather it was
conceived as a
stand-alone bonus.*

Springsteen pushes trade

With Santa Claus coming to town, Bruce Springsteen is hoping that holiday gifts will be purchased in the shore city of Asbury Park, N.J., where The Boss rose to fame.

Springsteen is offering 10 people a pair of tickets to his Dec. 19 show at Harry's Roadhouse, along with the opportunity to meet him. But the only way to enter the contest is to visit a shop in Asbury Park.

The contest is the latest effort by Springsteen to help local businesses, said Eileen Chapman, president of the Merchants

Guild of Asbury Park.

"Bruce has gotten on stage and listed all the merchants in Asbury Park, actually gone down the whole list and encouraged people at his concerts to shop the stores in Asbury," Chapman said.

Fans have until the end of business on Dec. 18 to enter. Winners will be notified by telephone that night. No purchase is necessary, but there is a limit of one entry per person per day at each participating store. Entrants must be 21 and older.

'Empire Falls' for sale

Hundreds of props, costumes and other items used in making the TV movie "Empire Falls" will be put up for sale next week — just in time for Christmas.

"Empire Falls," about an economically depressed mill town, was filmed last year in Waterville and Skowhegan, Maine. The

movie is scheduled to air in May on HBO.

Sale items include a pink cashmere sweater worn by Helen Hunt, painter's overalls worn by Paul Newman and silver spoons used by Newman's wife, Joanne Woodward. The auction also includes jackets and other costumes with the "Empire Falls" logo that were worn in football scenes.

The items will be sold Dec. 11-12 in the warehouse of the former Central Maine Power Co. office on Water Street, said locations manager Lynn "Kip" Kippax.

Three large gravestones will also be offered for sale.

Jonesing for Cruise, Spielberg

"Free hugs and haircuts for Tom Cruise & Steven Spielberg" read one sign outside Savior Hair as a few giggling hairdressers tried to lure the actor and director into the

salon in Naugatuck, Conn.

Cruise and Spielberg were on set filming scenes at the Uniroyal Chemical plant for "War of the Worlds."

They arrived by helicopter and landed in a secluded parking lot behind the plant. But that didn't stop fans from lingering in front of police barriers as early as 5 a.m.

Friday to see if they could spot them.

"If I find Tom, I want to bring him home with me. I'll say, 'You don't need a hotel! I have plenty of room,'" said Maria Furrado, a 56-year-old grandmother.

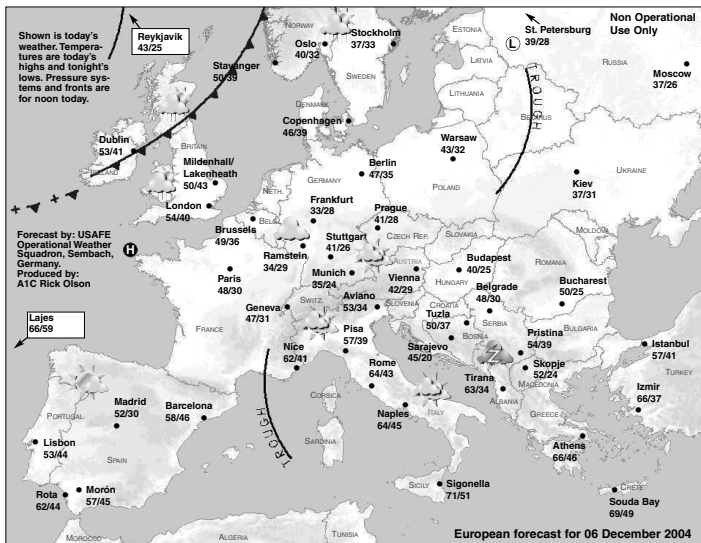
Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Springsteen



Cruise



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 40s, Tuesday lows in the 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the 40s to lower 50s, Tuesday lows in the lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-50s. Tuesday lows in the upper 30s.

France: Partly cloudy with isolated rain-showers. Highs in the 40s, Tuesday lows in the 30s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with fog.
Highs in the mid 40s, Tuesday lows in the
upper 20s to lower 30s

Southern Germany: Cloudy with fog.
Highs in the mid 30s, Tuesday lows in the
20s.

Hungary: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the 40s, Tuesday lows in the mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy.
Highs in the 50s, Tuesday lows in the
upper 30s to mid 40s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 60s, Tuesday lows in the 40s and 50s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid-50s, lows in the upper 30s.

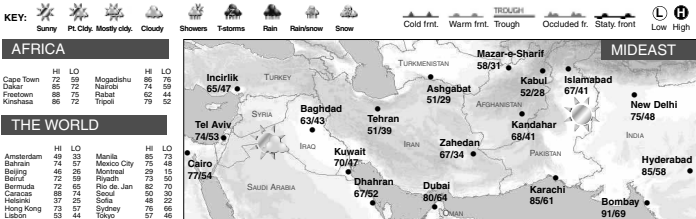
Norway: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain-showers. Highs in the 40s, Tuesday low in the mid to lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 50s to upper 40s, Tuesday lows in the 30s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with isolated rain-showers. Highs in the 50s, Tuesday lows in the 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

MIDEAST



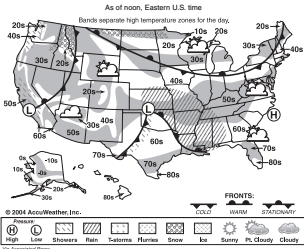
SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:55	6:56
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:09	8:09
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:56	4:55
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:24	4:24

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to ETS or DCS?

Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES®
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

The moon and Big Daddy Jupiter are in Libra, the sign of justice. Strong emotions culminate around matters of fairness. Those who have held fast to a so-called "right" position will now consider that there are many versions of right and that versions which clash with their own, though inconvenient and annoying, may not be so wrong after all.

Holiday Mathis



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
(December 6). Everyone

is jealous as your brilliant plan unfolds! Deepening

your relationship with your own intellect helps you understand the world better, love yourself completely and cherish loved ones openly. A career shift in January is in transition until March. A big check solidifies the change. Singles hold one relationship above all others in

June.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Let's face it. Though you start out with noble intentions, by noon, you're ready to blow off your work in favor of scanning the area for new, exciting experiences. Don't fight it. A mini-adventure actually enriches your work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Make an unforgettable entrance. It's about time everyone's head turned in your direction — your sensual presence is to be admired. If you're struggling with this flattery, take a serious look at what is hurting your self-esteem.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You pride yourself on being someone with a finger on the pulse of

you're tempted to sulk onto the scene like a frightened kitty walking into unfamiliar territory. Instead, go in loud and proud.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Mathis

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). You'll be made aware of a person

where-have-you-been-all-my-life situations. Oh, right under your nose is all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

It's easy to get nervous over the tasks that lie ahead. Make listening and empathizing your main mission, and some of those butterflies will leave your stomach. There's a reason you are the one in this situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-De

21). Your interaction with loved ones has you second-guessing:

approach. Is what you're planning even remotely possible? Of course it is! Listen through the negative stuff for information you can actually use.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). To say you're overextended is a hilarious understatement. You're uber-extended! But that's just the kind of challenge you respond to best! Chumming around with friends

the most enjoyable

Calvin and Hobbes



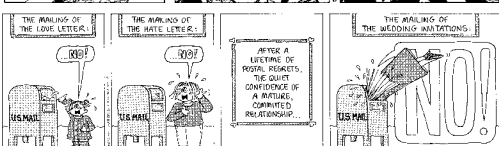
Jump Start



its



Pathy



Li and Lois



ettle Bailey



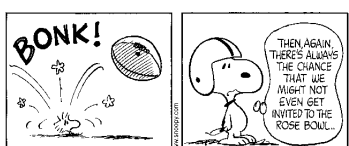
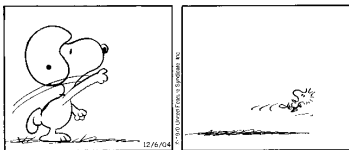
ed and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



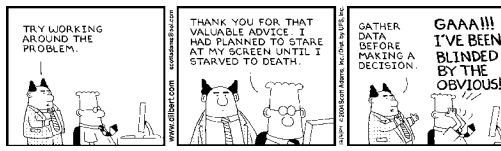
Spider Man



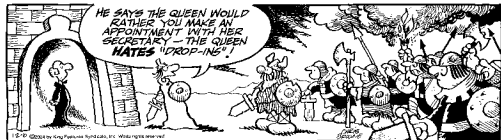
Blondie



Dilbert



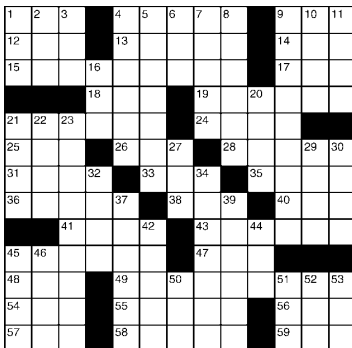
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Afflicted
- 4 Recreation
- 9 Von maiden
- 12 Adversary
- 13 Nevada resort area
- 14 Stipend
- 15 Peter Parker's alter ego
- 17 Rangers' place
- 18 Eggs
- 19 Motes
- 21 Squandered
- 24 Fork feature
- 25 Pump up the volume
- 26 Kan. neighbor
- 28 Homebound, to
- 29 Santa Claus
- 31 Picnic hamperer
- 33 Off-bracketed word
- 35 Writer Teasdale
- 36 Crowd,
- 38 "Nonsense!"
- 40 Mongrel
- 41 Has
- 43 Bicycle attachment
- 45 Immobilize
- 47 George's brother
- 48 Actress Irving
- 49 Band in a 1984 parody
- 54 Round Table address
- 55 Dialogue
- 56 Census stat
- 57 Bake-sale org.
- 58 Bridge positions

Down

- 3 Acknowledge applause
- 5 Conditions
- 6 Prune
- 3 Mainlander's memento
- 4 Mr. Spielberg
- 5 Processions
- 6 Resistance unit
- 7 Friars Club event
- 8 Alley target
- 9 Kitchen-wall convenience
- 10 Cabbie
- 11 Keeps tabs on
- 16 Minutia for
- 17 Scurat
- 20 Slaughter of baseball lore
- 21 Part of a Wicked Witch costume
- 22 Oriental nursemaid
- 23 Freshwater algae genus
- 27 Clothing protector
- 29 Authentic
- 30 Rodgers partner
- 32 Salamander
- 34 Group of advisers
- 37 Strand
- 39 Annoy repeatedly
- 42 Old photo shade
- 44 Actor Mineo
- 45 Padded faster
- 46 Leave out
- 50 Officeholders
- 51 Bill
- 52 Past
- 53 Chapel seat

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-6

CRYPTOQUIP

M C I B U B Y U B G V X B N C I U
Z R L Z J T B K X L D G V B N L F
B S L D G N B M G F I B J . T I R R .

M N K C M Y C N M S I !
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A PORCUPINE
PLAYED VOLLEYBALL, YOU'VE GOTTA THINK
HE'D BE FANTASTIC AT SPIKING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H

Call host on poker night extortion

Dear Abby: My friend, "Wilma," recently purchased a house with her husband, "Ken." They frequently host "poker nights" and invite quite a few other friends — and friends of friends.

Since Wilma is presently unemployed, she has instituted a new policy for the games: Everyone must donate a percentage of their winnings to the house. This has offended quite a few of the players. Many of us have offered to bring snacks, drinks, etc., but the donation rule stands and is very much in effect.

They add that Ken was shocked when Wilma asked for the money. How can we confront her without coming across as rude?

Dear Concerned: Why are you worried about offending someone who is extorting money from you? I don't know how many people participate in these "poker nights," but with a per-

centage of every hand going to the house, Wilma must be making a tidy sum. It shouldn't be necessary to "confront her." If I were you, I'd alternate hosting these games among the participants.

Dear Abby:



My father, who is still living, sexually abused me for six or seven years during my childhood. That I believe he has gotten help for his "problem" and won't harm anyone else, but I can't be sure.

I have talked to Dad about it, and he says he would never hurt anyone like that again, that what he did was very wrong, and he's sorry he ever hurt me.

About six years ago, another family member asked me if I had been sexually abused, and I told her not at the urging of my parents and my husband. She and I both have children.

I allow my son to stay with

Dad, but not my daughter. The other family member has a son who stays with Dad occasionally. I feel guilty for not telling her the truth. I would never forgive myself if something happened to her kids because I lied. Should I speak up and let the chips fall where they may, even though it could hurt a lot of people? Or should I just be quiet and observe? It has taken a lot of courage to write this letter, and your advice would be appreciated.

Dear Unsure: Has it occurred to you that your relative asked you that question because your father had also abused her?

Asking someone if a parent has abused her (or him) is not something that ordinarily comes up in conversation for no reason. Yes, you should definitely level with her — and then listen to what she has to say. You owe it to her and the children to be honest.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can e-mail to Abby on the internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ACEEP

REELD

ZARDAH

GRUNNE

www.jumble.com

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Adult saute embryo ankle

What it takes to learn to walk down a fashion runway — A MODEL STUDENT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Take time to get to know fiance

Dear Annie: I am in love with the perfect guy. We have been dating for three months and are so convinced we're perfect for each other that we've announced plans to marry soon.

Why am I writing? Well, "Monty" has been married twice before, and both marriages ended as a result of his cheating. He swears he is a changed man, and I believe him. He looks me in the eyes and tells me I am the woman he has been searching for and needing all his life, and I know it's true.

I am 30 and have never been married. I can hardly wait to have children with Monty and raise them together. He is excited, too. He is in his mid-40s and has two children who are young teens. He is active in his children's lives, and he and his ex are parenting their kids quite amicably. However, I do sense odd feelings from him each evening, but no one has said anything to me. (I did once overbear someone say, "There goes

Annie's Mailbox



the Bill Clinton of Oregon," when we passed by.) I love Monty deeply, yet now that I write this, I have even more doubts in the back of my head. Hurry and give me your advice.

Pondering in Portland

Dear Portland: Monty sounds like a risky proposition, and the fact that you are watching your biological clock may make you feel pressured to marry. You've been dating for only three months.

Frankly, that's not enough time to get to know anyone well enough to marry.

Slow down. Knowing Monty's background, we recommend dating him exclusively for one year before making any permanent decisions.

Dear Annie: My parents are quite wealthy. Over the past seven years (I'm 25) I've worked and saved, because my parents and I feel this is a skill I need to learn. I have given up many

things I wanted in order not to run to Mom and Dad every time I was in a bind. My boyfriend, however, thinks it's OK to use my money every time we eat out because I have rich parents to fall back on and he doesn't.

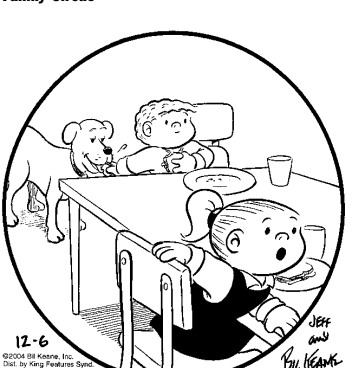
This really bothers me because I was raised to rely on no one — to work hard for what I want. I should mention that this year, I moved back to my hometown, where I haven't been able to find a job. My boyfriend works two jobs, while I am using my savings to pay for our dates.

Bling Bling Bovie
Dear Cash Cow: We think your boyfriend is a freeloader, and if you don't straighten him out immediately, he is likely to continue. If he can't afford to help pay for your dates while you are unemployed, cook at home and rent a video. Once you are back on your feet, however, all expenses should be split between the two of you.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus

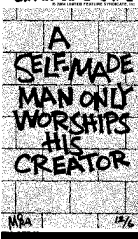


12-6

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www.familycircus.com

"Jeffy's outsourcing his lunch again!"

GRAFFITI

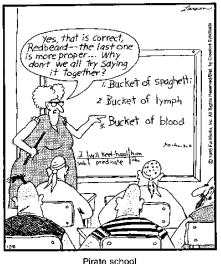


Domis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Pirate school

Non Sequitur



Wake wins in last gasp as No. 1

Demon Deacons' loss at Illinois clears the way for No. 2 Kansas

The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Eric Williams scored 21 points Saturday and No. 1 Wake Forest bounced back from its first loss to beat Richmond 90-73.

Justin Gray scored 18 of his 22 points in the first half for the Demon Deacons (6-1), coming off a lopsided 91-73 loss at Illinois that almost certainly will cost them the No. 1 ranking next week.

Wake Forest led throughout against the Spiders, shooting 53 percent and playing improved defense before heading into a nine-day break for final exams.

Jermaine Bucknor scored 14 points to lead the Spiders (3-2). Kevin Steenberger, Richmond's leading scorer at 18 points per game, managed just four points and wasn't a factor.

No. 2 Kansas 81, Pacific 70: At Lawrence, Kan., Keith Langford had 21 points and seven assists and Wayne Simien had 12 points and 15 rebounds as Kansas (4-0) beat scrappy Pacific (2-1).

Aaron Miles had eight assists and 19 points for the Jayhawks.

Chris Mearns had 22 points as the Tigers kept it close by scoring on six straight possessions before Miles made a steal with 1:10 to go.

No. 3 Syracuse 68, Colgate 55: At Syracuse, N.Y., Hakim Warrick scored 23 points and Terrence Roberts scored six of his 13 points during a decisive second-half spurt to help Syracuse (7-0) beat Colgate for the 39th straight time.

After Colgate's Jon Simon hit a runner in the lane as the shot-clock buzzer sounded at 10:42 to tie the game at 44-44, Roberts and Warrick led the Orange on a 13-1 run that sealed it.



Kansas's Keith Langford (51) tries to dribble past Pacific defender David Doubledy during the first half of Saturday's game. Kansas won 81-70.

No. 5 Illinois 72, Arkansas 60: At North Little Rock, Ark., Roger Powell scored 19 points and Dee Brown and Deron Williams added 13 each, helping Illinois overcome a sluggish offense and poor free throw shooting.

The Illini (6-0) rarely looked like the team that beat top-ranked Wake Forest by 18 Wednesday night. Illinois was playing its first game in front of a hostile crowd and, while never rattled, committed more than twice the number of turnovers as it did against the Demon Deacons.

The Razorbacks (5-1) were hurt by poor shooting after closing the gap to 57-53 with 7:47 left.

No. 6 Oklahoma St. 81, Washington St. 29: At Stillwater, Okla., John Lucas III and Joey Graham combined to outscore Washington State and Oklahoma State (5-0) gave coach Eddie Sutton his 760th victory, eighth on the career victory list.

The offensive performance by Washington State was one of the worst since the three-point shot was introduced in 1986-87. Georgia

Southern scored a record-low 21 in a 40-point loss to Coastal Carolina on Jan. 2, 1997.

No. 7 Connecticut 74, Indiana 69: At Hartford, Conn., Rashad Anderson scored 17 points and Rudy Gay had 10 rebounds to rally Connecticut (3-2) past Indiana (2-2). Reserve freshman guard Antonio Kellogg ignited a 17-1 second-half run that erased a 13-point deficit.

No. 10 Duke 93, Valparaiso 61: At Chicago, J.J. Redick scored 26 points and Duke (5-0) used a smothering defense to rout Valparaiso and give coach Mike Krzyzewski his 699th career win.

Playing in Krzyzewski's hometown, the Blue Devils took control midway through the first half with a 20-4 run and sailed from there. Duke forced 18 first-half turnovers and built a 48-26 lead.

George Washington 96, No. 11 Michigan St. 83: At Washington, D.C., Pops Mensah-Bonsu scored 23 points and George Washington forced Michigan State (3-2) into 22 turnovers.

No. 12 Maryland 78, George

Mason 54: At Washington, D.C., Chris McCray and Nik Caner-Medley each scored 20 points and Maryland (4-1) limited George Mason to four first-half baskets to advance to the championship game of the BBK Classic against George Washington.

No. 13 Pittsburgh 87, Duquesne 57: At Pittsburgh, Chris Taft had 16 points, Chevon Turner added 15 points and 11 rebounds and Carl Krauser scored 15 as Pitt reached 5-0 for the fifth straight season.

No. 17 Louisville 98, Lafayette 57: At Louisville, Francisco Garcia scored 25 points and Ellis Myles had 16 rebounds to lead Louisville (4-1).

No. 18 Texas 70, Seton Hall 62: At East Rutherford, N.J., freshman Daniel Gibson scored 15 points and Texas (5-1) beat Seton Hall despite its worst three-point effort of the season. Texas, averaging 10 baskets and shooting 50 percent from behind the arc, missed 11 of 17 against Seton Hall (2-2).

Miami 72, No. 19 Florida 65: At Gainesville, Fla., Anthony Harris scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half as Miami (3-2) gave, first-year coach Frank Haith his biggest victory.

Guillermo Diaz and Robert Hite added 16 apiece for the Hurricanes. Anthony Robinson had 20 points for Florida (4-1).

Michigan 61, No. 20 Notre Dame 60: At Ann Arbor, Mich., Daniel Horton's three-point play with 20.7 seconds to go ended a three-game losing streak for Michigan (3-3).

No. 22 Alabama 102, Charlotte 101 (30T): At Charlotte, N.C., Kennedy Winston scored a 33 points and hit a 16-foot jumper with 20.5 seconds left in the third overtime as Alabama (6-1) held off Charlotte (3-2).

No. 23 Iowa 83, UNC-Greensboro 58: At Iowa City, Iowa, Pierre Pierce and Adam Haluska scored 17 points apiece and Iowa (6-1) won its Hawkeye Challenge.

No. 25 Wisconsin 70, Rutgers 62: At Piscataway, N.J., senior forward Mike Wilkinson hit 10 of 14 shots and scored a career-high 26 points as Wisconsin (4-1) handed Rutgers.

its first half. Devon Neckles scored four points during a 12-0 run that got the Terriers even 29-29 at 4:33 remaining before halftime.

Bell's layup at 16:50 of the second half pushed Army into a 38-38 tie, its last before St. Francis took control with an 18-6 run. Smith had nine points during the run as the Terriers built a 56-44 advantage with 11:50 to play.

Army got within 56-49 when Ryan Wallace made two free throws.

After the teams exchanged baskets, Smith scored five points to lead a 15-0 run that made it 73-51 with 3:37 remaining.

Tar Heels too much for young Kentucky

By KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

CHAPLE HILL, N.C. — Jawad Williams found himself in the right place at the right time, with a stern message from assistant Steve Robinson fresh in his mind.

"Coach Robinson summed me out for not playing hard," Williams said with a smile. "He gave me a little extra motivation."

Soon after the tongue-lashing, Williams tipped in a miss to thwart a second-half rally by Kentucky, helping No. 9 North Carolina beat the No. 8 Wildcats 91-78 Saturday in a game between the two winning programs in college basketball history.

Rashad McCants had 20 of his 28 points in the first half and Sean May scored 11 of his 14 in the first eight minutes of the second, but Williams' basket was equally important. The Wildcats had trimmed what was a 17-point deficit to seven on a three-pointer by Bobby Perry with about 4 minutes left.

Raymond Felton missed a three-pointer for the Tar Heels, and Williams timed his leap perfectly to give North Carolina (6-1) an 81-78 lead. May made a free throw and McCants added two, and Kentucky got no closer than eight thereafter.

Williams scored 19 points and May had 19 rebounds for the Tar Heels, who outrebounced Kentucky 51-30.

"I can't say enough about Sean May," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "You know, he had nine rebounds in the first half, and then he turned around in the second half and got 10."

Williams had 24 points for the Wildcats (4-1), and Joe Crawford finished with 11. Leading scorer Chuck Hayes, saddled with foul trouble, didn't score until the second half and had only four points.

"They dominated us in every phase," Hayes said. "They played great, and we didn't."

These two powers have played since 1923-24 — Kentucky leads the career victory list 1,880-1,833 — and the recent history has belonged to the Wildcats. They have won four straight since the series was revived in 2000, including a 61-56 decision last season in Lexington.

With two freshmen starters and two more freshmen who feature prominently in the rotation, Kentucky got back in the game from a long range. Crawford made a three-pointer, then Ravi Moss and Perry added three or consecutive possessions to get Kentucky within 79-72.

It could have gotten even closer after the Wildcats forced a shot clock violation, but Perry shot an air ball on a leaner from the baseline and Williams responded with his putback to seal it.

Balanced Ohio tops Navy; Army beaten

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ohio — Leon Williams scored 16 points to pace four players in double figures in Ohio's 90-55 victory over Navy on Saturday.

Diamond Gladney and Sonny Troutman each had 12 points and Tim Conrath had 10 for the Bobcats, who are 3-0 for the first time since 2001.

Ohio, which never trailed, turned 32 Navy turnovers into 33 points. The Bobcats used 11 players and each played for at least nine minutes.

David Hooper came off the bench to score 15 points for Navy

Service Academies

scored more than six points.

The Midshipmen had just seven field goals in the first half while Ohio shot 52 percent from the field in building a 44-22 margin at intermission.

The Bobcats owned a 46-18 advantage in points inside and also made 18 of 22 free throws.

Hooper connected on three three-pointers in six attempts.

St. Francis, N.J., 78, Army 64: At New York, Tristin Smith

(3-3), which shot 40 percent from the field. No. 9 Navy player

made all five of his three-point attempts on the way to scoring 26 points in his debut with St. Francis. Smith transferred to St. Francis from St. John's.

Nick Jones, who made six attempts from three-point range, followed with 17 points for St. Francis (2-2). The Terriers, who pulled away from a 34-34 tie at halftime, finished with 15 three-pointers in 29 attempts.

Matt Bell scored 22 points to top the Black Knights (1-5) and Cory Sinning added 14.

Bell had five points as Army took an 11-2 lead and Luke Slater's basket pushed the Black Knights' advantage to 29-17 at

6:35 of the first half. Devon Neckles scored four points during a 12-0 run that got the Terriers even 29-29 at 4:33 remaining before halftime.

Bell's layup at 16:50 of the second half pushed Army into a 38-38 tie, its last before St. Francis took control with an 18-6 run. Smith had nine points during the run as the Terriers built a 56-44 advantage with 11:50 to play.

Army got within 56-49 when Ryan Wallace made two free throws.

After the teams exchanged baskets, Smith scored five points to lead a 15-0 run that made it 73-51 with 3:37 remaining.

T-wolves stop Clippers' streak at five

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sam Cassell scored eight of his season-high 30 points in overtime and Kevin Garnett added 22 points and 15 rebounds, helping the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Los Angeles Clippers 107-100 Saturday night for their fifth straight victory.

Eddie Griffin had 13 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for Minnesota, which went 4-0 on its road trip and snapped the Clippers' five-game winning streak.

Corey Maggette tied a career high with 34 points for Los Angeles, but the Clippers committed 20 turnovers — seven of them in the first nine minutes against a Minnesota defense that entered the game last in the league in turnovers forced (12.6) and next-to-last in steals (5.67).

Cassell hit consecutive jumpers 40 seconds apart to give Minnesota a 96-94 lead with 2:21 left in OT. After Bobby Simmons hit one of two free throws, Griffin made a three-pointer for a four-point margin.

Mikki Moore also missed one at the line for the Clippers before Cassell missed a three-point shot at the other end. But Maggette tried to pass the ball through traffic, and Cassell intercepted it before going in for a driving layup for a 101-96 lead with 58 seconds to go.

Latrell Sprewell's short jumper clinched it with 31 seconds left, making the Clippers 0-3 in overtime games — all at home. The Timberwolves have beaten the Clippers eight consecutive times, including four straight in Los Angeles.

Garnett, last season's MVP, has had at least 15 rebounds and 15 points in each of his last five games.

Cavaliers 105, Raptors 97: At Cleveland, Drew Gooden scored 27 points and LeBron James had 24, his final field goal coming on a monstrous dunk that sent the Cavaliers to a victory over the feuding Toronto Raptors, who didn't have Vince Carter.

Gooden added 15 rebounds and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who made their final four shots and their last six free throws in the final three minutes to put the Raptors away.

The Raptors played without Carter, who came down with food poisoning shortly after the club arrived in Boston. Carter stayed back at the hotel while his team-

NBA roundup

picks up costly technical fouls.

McIntyre kept the pair on the bench for the start, using Milt Palacio and Jerome Mingo instead. Alston led the Raptors with 20 points and 10 assists but had six turnovers.

Nets 109, Hawks 88: At East Rutherford, N.J., Eric Williams scored 21 points and the Nets shot a season-high 54.4 percent, sending the Hawks to their ninth straight loss.

Richard Jefferson rebounded from his worst game of the season — seven points and no field goals against Washington — with 14 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. Rodney Buford, who has struggled with his shooting all season, added a season-high 18 points as New Jersey won for just the fourth time in 16 games.

At Harrisonburg had 17 points and Antoine Walker 15 for Atlanta.

Bobcats 107, Knicks 101: At Charlotte, N.C., Steve Smith scored 20 points and hit two clutch shots in the final three minutes as the Bobcats overcame a 41-point performance from Jamal Crawford.

Smith hit a contested three-pointer from the right wing with 2:29 left to break a tie, then drained a fallaway jumper with 1:52 left to put the Bobcats ahead 101-97.

Eneida Okaro added 20 points and 18 rebounds — his sixth straight double-double — while Brevin Knight had 18 assists and hit two clinching free throws with 38.8 seconds left.

Magic 96, Grizzlies 91: At Orlando, Fla., Grant Hill had 23 points and seven assists, and the Magic took advantage of Memphis' sloppiness.

Edo Turgutoglu and Steve Francis each scored 16 points, while Francis adding eight assists, five rebounds and five steals. He also had seven of the Magic's 17 turnovers.

Dwight Howard blocked four shots to go with his nine points and six rebounds. New Memphis coach Mike Fratello couldn't follow Friday night's victorious debut with another win. Undone by a season-worst 23 turnovers, the Grizzlies lost for the sixth time in seven games.

NBA briefs

A woman who answered the phone at David Wallace's home Saturday said he would have no comment. Last month, he denied being involved in the mayhem.

NBA spokesman Brian McIntyre did not immediately respond to a call seeking comment Saturday. The fight among spectators and players broke out after an on-court dispute over a foul. A fan hurled a drink at Artest, who then charged into the stands, and other Pacers players and fans joined the melee. Several people, including a police officer, were hit with a chair.

Hornets get exemption to put Magloire on injured list

NEW ORLEANS — The Hornets received an exemption to put Jamaal Magloire on the injured list. The center will be sidelined three months with a broken right

ring finger.

New Orleans also signed 6-foot-9 forward Corsey Edwards from the Continental Basketball Association.

The injured list is generally restricted to three players.

Magloire joins Baron Davis, who has an inflamed right knee, lower back; Jamal Mashburn, who has an irritated right kneecap; and Rodney Rogers, who has a sprained left knee.

Pistons 92, Hornets 69: Ben Wallace made nine of his first 10 shots and finished with 22 points to lead visiting Detroit to an easy victory against New Orleans, which has yet to win at home in eight tries.

Wallace had 11 first-quarter points, including a pair of alley-op dunk, as Detroit took an early double-digit lead and never looked back.

Richard Hamilton scored 21 for Detroit, which shot 54.4 percent, while Tayshaun Prince added 14. Wallace also had two blocked shots and two steals, while Rasheed Wallace grabbed 10 rebounds.

Lee Nelson led New Orleans with 18 points, 14 in the first quarter.

Wizards 95, Bulls 88: At Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored a season-high 34 points, and Larry Hughes padded his NBA lead with seven of his team's 17 steals.

The Bulls led most of the game despite committing a season-high 29 turnovers. The Wizards shot just 35 percent and were outscored 50-35, but they closed the game with a 18-9 run for their fourth straight victory and seventh in eight games.

The Wizards, who have epitomized losing for more than a decade, improved to 10-5, their best 15-game record since the 1974-75 team that started 11-4 and won a franchise record 60 games.

Mavericks 109, Jazz 86: At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki followed up his 53-point outburst with 30 points and seven rebounds. Nowitzki wasn't quite as sharp as he was two nights earlier in setting a franchise scoring record against Houston, but his 10-for-19 field goal shooting and 8-for-8 performance from the free throw line were good enough to send the Mavericks to their fourth victory in five games.

Jason Terry scored a season-high 19 points and added nine assists, and Jerry Stackhouse added 18 points for Dallas. Josh Howard contributed 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Matt Harrington's 22 points paced the Jazz, who've lost four straight and five of six.

Rockets 77, 76ers 76: At Houston, Tracy McGrady had 17 points, including the winning basket with 25 seconds to play, as the Rockets ended a five-game losing streak.

Marc Jackson, who scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, hit two free



Minnesota's Sam Cassell, left, is congratulated by Latrell Sprewell after making a basket during overtime against the Los Angeles Clippers in Los Angeles on Saturday. The Timberwolves won 107-100.

throws with 37 seconds left to put Philadelphia ahead 76-75. McGrady then hit a 20-foot jumper from above the left of the key to give Houston the final lead.

Jackson missed two shots, and Kyle Korver and Aaron McKie each missed one in the final nine seconds, including McKie's 10-foot jumper at the buzzer.

It was Jeff Van Gundy's 300th career coaching victory and came in his 100th game with the Rockets.

Nuggets 104, Heat 95: At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points to surpass 2,000 for his career, and the Nuggets controlled Shaquille O'Neal with constant double-teamers.

SuperSonics 99, Trail Blazers 89: At Seattle, Rashard Lewis and Vladimir Radmanovic each scored 20 points, and the SuperSonics improved to 15-3.

Warriors 104, Pacers 96: At Oakland, Calif., Michael Pietrus gave Golden State just the lift it needed, contributing 15 points and six rebounds off the bench as the Warriors ended a four-game losing streak.

Report: Wallace's brother, Pacers' Jones among brawlers in Detroit

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Indiana Pacers guard Fred Jones and a brother of Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace were identified by police as participants in last night's NBA brawl at the Detroit Free Press reported Saturday.

Videotape of the brawl shows Wallace and Wallace, 33, of Selma, Ala., in the midst of the melee at the Palace in Auburn Hills on Nov. 19, the newspaper reported, citing an unidentified source close to the police investigation.

Police Lt. James Manning told the paper it was clear from looking at the videotape that Jones was also involved.

Ben Wallace, who rejoined the Pistons on Friday in San Antonio after a six-game suspension for shoving and throwing a wristband at Indiana forward Ron Artest, said he was unaware his brother had been identified by police.

NBA briefs

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Sunday, December 12

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*Certain rules and restrictions apply. See the official rules at www.oconus.com/nfl and www.strikes.com. There is no cost to participate, but you must register to play.

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STARS AND STRIPES

OCONUS

Control: Navy's Smith also delivers

CONTROL, FROM BACK PAGE

And Navy has outscored Army by 134-31 in their past three meetings.

The Midshipmen also won the Commander-in-Chief Trophy for the second straight season.

Army, on the upswing under new coach Bobby Ross, believed it was ready for this one. The Cadets were convinced that their changing defensive fronts could keep Navy off-kilter, and that they could move the ball on the ground.

The way the first half played out, Army's defense spent most of it on the field. Cadets tailback Carlton Jones ran effectively, finishing with 98 yards on 21 carries. But when Army tried to mix it up, the Cadets (2-9) floundered. At one point, three straight passes by Army quarterback Zac Dahman were tipped or otherwise touched first by Navy defenders.

And that was before the play of the game when Smith, a senior safety, engulfed a Dahman pass and returned it 67 yards for Navy's third touchdown with just more than six minutes left before halftime.

Smith described how he had looked up at the Jumbotron screen in the end zone as he ran. "I saw No. 30," Smith said of Jones, Army's tailback, who was chasing him. "I knew he was fast."

If Eckel hadn't been MVP, it would have been Smith, who made 12 tackles, two for losses, including a 12-yard sack of Dahman when the Cadets were driving. Smith talked afterward about how he had repeatedly faked blitzing in the first half, then thought he surprised Army when he started coming after halftime.

"There were three or four times that we ran it that they weren't prepared for it," he said. "We knew if we could get one-on-one with their backs, they weren't their best blockers."

Smith, Army's leading tackler for the third straight season, also was the feel-good story of the day, since he had to watch last year's game from the Wyndam Franklin Plaza hotel in Center City, after undergoing an appendectomy three days before the game. Doubled over in pain during the week, he had tried to convince Navy's coaches and doctors that the

"We'd line up and play well for three plays, and then there would be a big play that would bust loose for them."

Bobby Ross
Army coach

surgery could be delayed so he could play. The worst part, he said, was watching his teammates celebrate the victory without him.

After watching another celebration in person, Army offensive tackle Joel Glover, a team captain, still was visibly emotional almost an hour after the game.

"We anticipated doing so much better than we did," Glover said. "We didn't deliver... I should have been a lot closer."

"We don't ever want to get behind," Ross said. "We're a team that has to stay fairly even. The game just got away from us... We'd line up and play well for three plays, and then there would be a big play that would bust loose for them."

Asked about winning handily again, Eckel said the word "handily" doesn't apply to Army-Navy. "I got a shot in the ribs," Eckel said. "I'm still hurting."



Midshipmen cheer after a Navy touchdown in the second quarter against Army on Saturday. Navy rolled to a 42-13 victory.

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Navy 42, Army 13

6 25 7 6-12

Army Navy

Navy—Eckel 23 run (Blumenfeld kick), 14-0.

Navy—Eckel 23 run (Blumenfeld kick), 11-0.

Navy—Smith 67 interception return (Blumenfeld kick), 6-16.

Navy—Kobles 12 passes from a Polanco (Blumenfeld kick), 1-1.

Army—Trimble 6 pass from Dahman (Koenig kick), 22-0.

Third Quarter

Army—Roberts 9 pass from a Polanco (Blumenfeld kick), 2-5.

Fourth Quarter

Army—Alexander 8 pass from Dahman (Kick failed), 7-20.

Navy—Owens 17 run (Gouge kick), 1-25.

Army Navy

First downs

Rushes-yards

Comp-Att-Int

Return Yds

Punts-Avg

Penalties-Yards

Time of possession

Individual Statistics

Bushing—Army, John 21-68, Robinson 6-28, Anderson 1-19, Dahman 5-17, Silva 1-10, Smith 1-11, Navy, Eckel 25-275, Roberts 5-49, A Polanco 14-22, Owens 4-26, Davis 1-14, Diggle 2-4, Hall 1-1, Team 1-10.

Passing—Army, Dahman 20-39-1-163, Silva 1-5-0, Navy, A Polanco 17-41-0-109.

Receiving—Army, Alexander 5-54, Ulekoski 4-25, Trimble 4-25, Diggle 4-25, Davis 2-12, Robinson 1-14, Wesley 1-7, Navy, Tomlinson 2-12, Wesley 1-7, Diggle 1-19, Yonkiss 1-12, Dryden 1-11, Roberts 1-9.

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Virginia Tech claims ACC title, BCS berth

Hokies defeat fellow newcomer Miami, earn likely trip to Sugar Bowl

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Bryan Randall grabbed a set of Mardi Gras beads and waved them aloft, while his teammates exulted in the prospect of a trip to New Orleans.

The Hokies beat Miami for the second straight year — and a Bowl Championship Series spot, one that Virginia Tech let slip away by collapsing down the stretch a year ago, is the reward.

Randall threw two touchdown passes, including a 39-yard strike to Edin Royal that put Virginia Tech ahead to stay in its 16-10 victory over the Hurricanes on Saturday.

The Hokies capped their first Atlantic Coast Conference season by winning the league title.

No. 10 Virginia Tech (10-2, 7-1)

will learn Sunday to which BCS bowl it's headed; the likely choice is the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 3 in New Orleans. Miami — which was bidding for a fifth straight BCS berth — will play Florida in the Peach Bowl on New Year's Eve.

"To come into this great stadium, against a great football team and to be able to hold on and win the ACC outright is a special feeling for us," Hokies coach Frank Beamer said. "It was their time. Things bounced our way, but I think we made things bounce our way."

The ninth-ranked Hurricanes (8-3, 5-3) talked volumes about avenging last year's humbling 31-7 loss in Blacksburg and making Virginia Tech pay for writing an "ACC Champions" sign on its sideline following last week's victory against Virginia that clinched a share of the conference crown.

Miami came up empty on all counts, and lost its home finale for just the second time since 1985.

"We've got the ACC all by ourselves," said Randall, who completed 11 of 18 passes for 148 yards. "There's no question who the champions are, who's the better team or who should have won this game."

Virginia Tech entered the game with the ACC's top scoring defense, and thoroughly frustrated Miami's offense. Miami quarterback Brock Berlin completed 16 of 31 passes for 139 yards — 98 off his season average. And the Hurricanes managed only 51 yards rushing on 22 attempts.

"We weren't able to run the ball effectively or pass the ball effectively... We just didn't do enough things to allow ourselves to win the football game," Miami coach Larry Coker said.

Cedric Humes added 110 rushing yards for the Hokies, who were picked to finish sixth in the ACC before the season and won their final eight games to cap a surprising title run. They also beat Miami for the seventh time in the teams' last 10 meetings.

"It just seemed that we would get something and get pushed back, get something again and get pushed back," Berlin said. "We hurt ourselves."

Berlin threw to Talib Humphrey for 24 yards on Miami's first play, the Hurricanes wouldn't have another play exceed 17 yards all afternoon. Miami finished with 190 yards, with 110 coming in the final three quarters, plus a season-long seven first downs.

Bowl Glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000
(North Texas (7-4) vs. Southern Mississippi (6-4))

Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payoff: \$850,000
Georgia Tech (6-5) vs. Big 12
Wednesday, Dec. 22
Gator Bowl
Mobile, Ala.

Payoff: \$750,000

Memphis (8-3) vs. Bowling Green (8-3)

Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl

Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)

Las Vegas Bowl

Wyoming (6-5) vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5

Hawaii Bowl

Payoff: \$750,000

UAB (7-4) vs. USC

Saturday, Dec. 25

Blue vs. Gray

Monday, Dec. 27

MPC Computers Bowl

Payoff: \$750,000

Fresno State (6-5) vs. Big 12 No. 3

Motor City Bowl

Payoff: \$750,000

Toledo (9-3) vs. Michigan (9-4)

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Independence Bowl

Payoff: \$1.2 million

Big 12 vs. TBA

Payoff: \$750,000

Pac-10 No. 4/5 vs. Northern Illinois (6-5)

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Payoff: \$1.1 million

Texas-El Paso (6-5) vs. Big 12

Alamo Bowl

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Ohio State (7-4) vs. Big 12 No. 4

Thursday, Dec. 30

Continental Tire Bowl

Payoff: \$750,000

Boiling College (9-3) vs. North Carolina (6-5)

Emerald Bowl

Payoff: \$750,000

New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (5-2)

Friday, Dec. 31

Payoff: \$2 million

Pac-10 No. 12 vs. Big 12 No. 1

Silicon Valley Classic

Payoff: \$750,000

WAC vs. MAC

Friday, Dec. 31

Musica City Bowl

Payoff: \$750,000

SEC vs. Minnesota (6-5)

Sun Bowl

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Purdue (7-4) vs. Big 12 No. 10

Liberty Bowl

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Boise State (11-0) vs. Louisville (9-1)

Payoff: \$1.2 million

ACC No. 3 vs. Florida (7-4)

Saturday, Jan. 1

Cotton Bowl

Payoff: \$3 million

SEC vs. Big 12

Outback Bowl

Payoff: \$2.75 million

Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)

Gator Bowl

Payoff: \$1.5 million

At Jacksonville, Fla.

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Capital One Bowl

Payoff: \$5.157 million

Iowa (9-2) vs. SEC

Rose Bowl

Payoff: \$14.5 million

Michigan (9-2) vs. Oregon or TBA

Fiesta Bowl

Payoff: \$11.4 million

Monday, Jan. 3

Payoff: \$11.4 million

SEC vs. BCS

Tuesday, Jan. 4

Payoff: \$11.4 million

BCS vs. BCS

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Payoff: \$1.5 million

North vs. South

East-West Shrine Classic

Payoff: \$1.5 million

East vs. West

Saturday, Jan. 22

Hula Bowl

Payoff: \$1.5 million

Alina vs. Kal

Saturday, Jan. 29

Senior Bowl

Payoff: \$1.5 million

North vs. South

No perfect ending for 12-0 Auburn

No. 3 Tigers beat Vols for SEC championship but look like odd men out in national title picture

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Take that, pollsters and computers. The team most likely to be left out of the national championship game has a trophy of its own.

For Auburn, that will probably have to do.

Jason Campbell threw for three touchdowns and accounted for more than 400 yards, leading the No. 3 Tigers to a 38-28 victory over 15th-ranked Tennessee in the SEC championship game Saturday night.

Despite being 12-0 for the first time in school history, Auburn appears to be the odd team out in another Bowl Championship Series mess.

"If we don't get a shot at playing for the national championship, sure, there will be some hard feelings," Campbell said. "But they can't take away what this team did this year."

Not that the Tigers passed up the chance to get in some last-minute lobbying.

"We definitely deserve a chance to play for the national championship," Campbell said. "We've done all we can do. We've done what people asked."

No. 1 Southern California also finished 12-0 by holding off UCLA 29-24 earlier Saturday. No. 2 Oklahoma (12-0) did nothing to hurt its standing, coasting to a 42-3 victory over Colorado in a Big 12 title game that ended after the Tigers had celebrated their first SEC championship since 1959.

"When you go 12-0 in the SEC, there's no doubt in my mind you should play in the dance — and that's the Orange Bowl," Auburn safety Junior Rosegreen said. "The world in the media knows how hard we fought. We've been through it all, and we came out on top."



Auburn's Courtney Taylor (86) breaks the tackle of Tennessee's Jonathan Hefney after a reception on the first play of the Southeastern Conference championship game at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on Saturday. Auburn won 38-28 to improve to 12-0 this season.

Even so, Auburn is expected to get twice-beaten Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl — not USC or Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

Those teams led the BCS standings, and only a major change of heart from the poll voters or a short-circuiting of the voters will keep the Trojans and Sooners from playing for another disputed national championship.

"This is a true team, from top to bottom," said Auburn coach

Tommy Tuberville, capping his own remarkable comeback from nearly getting fired a year ago. "I just hope everyone will be fair when they vote tonight. I know we'll get at least one first-place vote" in the coaches poll.

Campbell, the game's MVP, did all he could to get the Tigers to Miami. He completed 27 of 35 for 374 yards — the first 300-yard passing game of his career. He also rushed for 57 yards, setting

an SEC championship game record with 431 yards total offense.

Tennessee (9-3), which will set for a trip to the Cotton Bowl, played much better than its first meeting against Auburn. The Volunteers were embarrassed on their home field, committing six turnovers in a 34-10 loss in early October.

With third-string Rick Clausen at quarterback because of injuries, the Volunteers rallied to the game at 21 on Gerald Riggs Jr.'s 80-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Then, Tennessee pulled to 31-28 with just over 10 minutes remaining when Riggs rumbled for a 9-yard TD.

But Campbell would not be denied. He finished off the Volunteers with his final touchdown, a 43-yard pass to Ben Obamnu with 6:56 remaining.

Tennessee might have pulled off the upset if not for three crucial penalties. Cedric Houston had a 70-yard touchdown run wiped out by a yellow flag, and a holding call negated a 44-yard pass from Clausen to Robert Meachem.

Also, Campbell threw a 53-yard scoring pass to Devlin Aromashodu — putting the Tigers ahead to stay late in the third quarter — after an interference penalty on Roshawn Fellows extended the drive.

Tennessee was livid about the calls.

"In 13 years, I've never criticized the officials, and many times I've taken up for the officials," Fulmer said. "I'm not going to be that line now, but I'll be real anxious to see the film. That's all I'm going to say."

Riggs gained 182 yards on just 17 carries, the first run in 17 games to surpass 100 yards against the fearsome Auburn defense.

USC (Undeclared, Seeks Championship)

Top-ranked Trojans handle feisty Bruins to set up showdown with No. 2 Sooners

By JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Southern California has reached all its goals to this point. Although the Trojans were pushed by cross-town rival UCLA, they made sure they'll get a shot at the one that remains.

Reggie Bush had two long touchdown runs. Ryan Kilien kicked five field goals and No. 1 USC held off the Bruins 29-24 Saturday to virtually lock up an Orange Bowl bid to play for the Bowl Championship Series title.

"They started No. 1 and finished No. 1," Keith Trumble, chief executive officer of the Orange Bowl, said. "It's not official, but you can draw the conclusions. It's 99.9 percent certain for them. USC knows how to finish. It's the sign of a champion."

Moments after the game, USC fans in both end zones tossed oranges onto the field as the Trojans celebrated. Bush climbed the band director's ladder near the south end zone, waved a Trojan sword and held a sign reading, "No. 1, Trojans Orange Bowl-bound."

It wasn't USC's best performance — and Heisman Trophy contender Matt Leinart was held back — but it should be enough.

The final BCS standings and bowl pairings were to be announced Sunday. As Trumble pointed out, the Trojans (12-0, 8-0 Pac-10) have been ranked No. 1 all season in The Associated Press and coaches polls and, most importantly, the BCS standings.

"I don't see how they couldn't take us," Leinart said. "We're in great position, and I think they're the crazy to step us out."

USC was left out last winter, when it finished out both polls after the regular season but was third in the final BCS standings. The Trojans won the AP national championship and LSU beat Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl to win the BCS title.



USC's Reggie Bush is off on a 35-yard gain in the fourth quarter, part of his 204-yard, two-touchdown effort that helped the top-ranked Trojans beat UCLA 29-24 on Saturday.

"We'll find out tomorrow," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "We've done everything we could do, regardless of how it turns out. Going wire to wire is challenging. Whether it's the Orange Bowl or not, I don't know. I don't really care. I just enjoyed today."

The Trojans completed the fifth perfect regular season in school history and first since 1972, when they won the national championship. It also was USC's 15th straight Pac-10 triumph and 21st consecutive victory overall. The Trojans have won 32 of their last 33 games.

Bush gained a career-high 204 yards on 15 carries — most on a 65-yard touchdown run on the game's second play and an 81-yard dash midway through the second quarter.

It was just the second game in which the explosive sophomore has rushed for more

than 100 yards. He also had six receptions for 73 yards.

"I think I might have shaken up the votes a little bit," he said, referring to the Heisman balloting.

Bush's candidacy seemed to waver in recent weeks, mainly because he doesn't have the numbers of such leading contenders as Leinart, the junior left-hander who completed his first 10 passes for 64 yards. He wound up 24-for-34 for 242 yards — one interception and no touchdowns — the first time in 25 career starts he has failed to throw at least one TD pass. USC is 24-1 in his starts.

"He (Bush) was huge returning the ball, running the ball and catching the ball," Leinart said. "We weren't able to put a lot of points up. They did a good job defensively, but we have so many weapons."

Carroll became the first Trojans coach to beat Notre Dame and UCLA — USC's biggest rivals — in three straight seasons.

USC has beaten the Bruins six straight times — its longest winning streak in the series, which they lead 40-27-7.

"I'm disappointed about today, but I'm excited about our future," second-year UCLA coach Karl Dorrell said. "It wasn't our best effort. But you know what? I'll take it against the best team in the country."

Drew Olson completed 20 of 34 passes for 278 yards and one touchdown with two interceptions for UCLA (6-5, 4-4), which will play in the Insight Bowl or the Las Vegas Bowl. The Bruins were limited to 17 yards on 25 rushes.

"This effort did not make our season. If we had won, it would have," UCLA receiver Tab Perry.

On Bush's first scoring run, he faked out Matt Clark near the UCLA 10 before sneaking into the end zone and spiking the ball to draw an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Kilien's 37-yard field goal on USC's second possession made it 10-0, and it appeared the rout was on.

It wasn't.

Craig Bragg's school-record 96-yard punt return early in the second quarter cut USC's lead to 10-7. Bragg broke Kermit Alexander's 43-year-old record by two yards.

The Bruins then blew an opportunity after Chris Horton blocked Tom Malone's punt, giving UCLA the ball at the USC 19.

But the Bruins held, and Justin Medlock missed a 39-yard field goal.

Bush scored his second touchdown two plays later to give USC a 17-7 lead. He broke two tackles to get into the clear, and, on his third play, he was going to catch the speedster.

"I have no advice in terms of stopping him," Dorrell said. "No one has been able to stop him yet. Good goal."

Kilien's second fourth-quarter field goal — set up by Lofa Tatupu's interception — made it 29-17. But UCLA drew with five minutes left to play on Olson's 4-yard punt to Mercedes Lewis on fourth-and-2.

The Bruins got one final chance when Spencer Havner recovered a fumble by Bush at the UCLA 14 with 53 seconds left, but Jason Leach intercepted Olson's pass on the next play.

Second-ranked Oklahoma OK — and then some

Sooners slam Colorado 42-13 in Big 12 title game, await Orange Bowl invitation

By EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Munching on an orange after the game, Oklahoma tailback Adrian Peterson had a pretty good idea of where the Sooners are heading next.

Oklahoma made its Orange Bowl invitation a no-brainer Saturday night, getting three touchdown passes from Jason White and three rushing TDs from Peterson in a near-flawless 42-13 dismantling of Colorado in the Big 12 title game.

Next, barring some kind of massive mix-up, comes a trip to Miami where No. 2 Oklahoma (12-0) will play for its eighth national title, most likely against No. 1 Southern California.

"This whole season, we played hard, finished games," Peterson said. "I'm not saying we made a statement today, but we went out and busted our butts for four quarters."

Both USC and No. 3 Auburn, the other national-title wannabe, also took care of

business Saturday. The Trojans defeated UCLA 29-24 and the Tigers beat No. 15 Tennessee 38-28.

But neither contender was anywhere near as impressive as coach Bob Stoops' Sooners.

"There aren't any parts missing. I don't believe," Stoops said. "You saw it all the way through. The offense has the ability to make plays running or throwing. The defense has been good, and fortunately, we did it at the right time."

White finished with 254 yards and three for all his touchdowns over the first 15:07. Two went to Mark Clayton, who made a sweet, reaching, fingertip catch on the second for a 21-0 lead. Clayton finished with eight catches for 106 yards.

Peterson surpassed the century mark in the second quarter for his 11th 100-yard rushing game, an NCAA record for a freshman. He finished with 172 yards and saved the best for last, breaking six tackles for a darting, spinning 32-yard score and a 42-3 lead. That touchdown prompted Sooners

fans to start throwing oranges onto the field — a tradition like no other.

Peterson and White did the Heisman voters no favors; they entered the weekend as two presumed favorites, and leave it just the same way.

"White, he was on. If you slip, or do something too slow, it's a catch," Buffs defensive back Terrence Wheatley said. "Peterson, I've never seen someone that strong, that big."

In Colorado (7-5), the Sooners had the perfect foil for a statement game like this.

The Buffs turned their year of turmoil — dogged by a sex and recruiting scandal and the spring suspension of coach Gary Barnett — into a feel-good story by capturing the Big 12 North with a stirring, late-season, three-game winning streak.

But their appearance in the title game couldn't mask the fact that they are, at best, only the fourth- or fifth-best team in a conference in which all the good teams played in the other division.

"Our team is embarrassed by our performance," Barnett said. "We were inept at

best. We played a very, very good football team and we were just not prepared to play that team today."

Joel Klatt threw for 52 yards for the Buffs and leading rusher Bobby Purify was held to 7 yards on 12 carries. Colorado took until the 9:35 mark of the third quarter to get its first first down via penalty.

The Buffs finished with one of their first downs and their only trip past the 50 came courtesy of an Oklahoma turnover.

Meanwhile, White and Peterson overmatched the Colorado defense from the get-go. Oklahoma drove 80, 63, 53 and 40 yards for touchdowns and a 28-0 lead after its first five possessions.

Later in the second quarter, the Sooners made a first down off a fake field goal and were looking to go ahead 35-0, but White threw a lob into the end zone that was intercepted by Wheatley.

That was one of three turnovers the Sooners committed, the last of which resulted in M. Crosby's field goal that kept the Buffs from being shut out.

Oklahoma won its 39th conference championship.

SPORTS



Moya tops Roddick, clinching Davis Cup for Spain, Page 24

Eckel, Navy take charge

Game MVP's career day leads Mids' rout of Army

BY MIKE JENSEN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Navy fullback Kyle Eckel, who spent much of his youth living a few blocks away in South Philadelphia, spoke about what a great honor it was to have the President of the United States — “a very important man, to say the least” — address his team on Saturday just before the Midshipmen faced Army. The president talked about the importance of what they were all doing.

Later, after Navy had dominated the Cadets, 42-13, and Eckel had been named most valuable player for the second straight time at the Army-Navy game, the fullback told the truth.

“You try to drown that out,” Eckel said of the Commander-in-Chief’s visit. “It’s extra-curricular stuff.”

In the locker room, Navy’s players were on all one knee.

“A lot of us were like, ‘C’mon, c’mon.’ It’s a great honor, but everybody is focusing at that moment to get out there,” Eckel said. President Bush might have sensed all this.

“I think he told us to go out and bust their heads,” said Navy defensive captain Josh Smith. “He probably told them the same thing.”



Navy fullback Kyle Eckel (32) races away from practically the entire Army team en route to a 23-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

The Midshipmen followed orders. They scored four second-quarter touchdowns to take all the drama out of the game at Lincoln Financial Field.

Eckel, Navy’s best pro prospect

in a decade, ran 26 times for a career-high 179 yards. He actually lost yardage on a play for the first time late in the second quarter when Navy ran him out wide, but by the third quarter, Eckel was

over 1,000 rushing yards for the second straight season.

The Midshipmen, now 9-2 heading into their Emerald Bowl date with New Mexico, won that many games in a regular season for the

first time since 1963. They also tied the all-time series 49-49-7 by winning for the fifth time in six games.

SEE CONTROL ON PAGE 28



USC escapes UCLA, assuring slot in Orange

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Being second is OK by unbeaten Sooners

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SEC champ Auburn likely squeezed by BCS

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Virginia Tech's victory in Miami doubly sweet

Page 30

Sen. McCain warns MLB to act on steroid problem by January Page 24